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YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE FAMILY:
SOME DEMOGRAPHIC ASPECTS

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for

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(The French text is the original version)

Texte français
disponible

A list of research reports on youth already published or to be published can be found at the end of this document.

FOREWORD

There has been a continuing interest by the Secretary of State in youth. This interest has recently been heightened by the International Year of Youth in 1985 and by the situation of young people in Canada today, a situation which, although it presents many problems, also offers new opportunities.

To achieve a better understanding of Canada's young people, a program of research on youth has been developed by the Social Trends Analysis Directorate. Within the framework of this program, two exploratory documents have been produced and they particularly bring to the fore the embryonic state of research on youth. In order to alleviate this gap, seven research reports focussing on specific aspects of young peoples' lives were undertaken. These reports are aimed at gathering, organizing and analysing the available and most relevant information on the topic.

This research document prepared by Linda Demers, demographer, deals with various elements of young people's family life. Using statistics, it presents a descriptive analysis of the family situation, marriage, fertility and abortion amongst young people. Trends over time and provincial variations are highlighted, as are the differences between young people and their elders.

Needless to say, the author is solely responsible for this study and it should not be taken as reflecting the views of the Department of the Secretary of State or of the Minister of State - Youth.

Jean-Marie Romeder
Director
Social Trends Analysis

HIGHLIGHTS

FAMILY LIFESTYLES

- The great majority of **15-24 year-olds** live within a family unit, either with their parents or in the family they have created. The larger group is the one living with their parents: **68%** of young men and **57%** of young women in 1981.

- The proportion of young people living with their parents decreases with age. More than nine out of ten 15-17 year-olds live with their parents, compared with approximately four out of ten among the 20-24 year-olds. Proportionally more young men than young women live with their parents.

- Young people today do not appear more likely than young people in 1971 to leave the parental home before the age of 25. In fact, it seems that today, proportionally more youths live with their parents. This trend can perhaps be explained, in part, by the recession of the 1980s.

- In 1981, **470,000** young people were living as a child in a single-parent family. The majority of these (79%) were living with their mother, who was, in many cases, a widow.

- Young people in Western Canada seem to leave the parental home at an earlier age than young people in Central and Eastern Canada. Among those who leave their parents, young people west of Ontario are also more likely to live outside a family environment.

- One quarter of young women live in a couple, compared with only 14% of young men. Considering only those young people who have left their parents' home, 6 women out of 10 live as part of a couple.

- The single-parent phenomenon also affects young people in the role of parents. In 1981 there were **48,055 young single parents,** compared with 28,820 in 1971. This increase is attributable in part to an increase in the number of young unmarried mothers and an increase in the proportion of unmarried mothers who keep their child (as opposed to adoption).

- The most common young single-parent situation involves a 20-24 year old woman, usually unmarried, who is the head of the household.

- Relatively few young people live outside a family situation (15% of young men and 14% of young women). It should be noted, however, that more young men live outside the family than as part of a couple.

- From 1971 to 1981, the number of young people living alone almost tripled, from 69,485 to **201,090.** In 1981, 4% of young people lived alone.

- The proportion of young people living alone increases with age: less than 1% of 15-17 year-olds live alone, compared with 8% of 20-24 year-olds. There is little difference in the figures for men and women, except that women tend to live alone at slightly younger ages.

- Young people indicate great respect for the institution of the family. A stable and rewarding family life is one of the major priorities for a majority of today's young people. It should also be pointed out that the responses of young people to a series of questions about the family were very similar to the responses of their elders.

MARRIAGE

- The majority of young people are single. Among 15-19 year-olds, 98% of men and 93% of women are single, and among 20-24 year-olds, 72% of men and 51% of women are. The proportion of unmarried young people decreases rapidly with age. Women tend to marry at an earlier age than men.

- Marriage appears to have lost some of its popularity with young people in recent years, at least if one is to judge from the decline in the marriage rate.

- Common law marriages probably account for some of the decline in the marriage rate among young people. In 1981, just over **230,000** young people were living together without being married.

- There were a total of 68,567 divorces in Canada in 1983. Of these, 7,119 involved a young woman and 2,752 a young man.

- In 1981, there were 1,371 divorces per 100,000 married women between the ages of 20 and 25. The divorce rates for young men and for 15-19 year-olds are even lower.

- Most young people do not think that marriage is old-fashioned but very few believe that people must be married before living together. There is hardly any difference between the attitudes of young people and their elders toward marriage and divorce.

FERTILITY

- In 1983, there were 132,596 births among 15-24 year old mothers. For most of these women, it was their first child.

- In 1983, the fertility rate (number of births as a proportion of the total number of women) was 25 per 1,000 women for 15-19 year-olds and 92 per 1,000 for 20-24 year-olds.

- The decline in fertility rates affects women of all ages, including young women. From 1961 to 1983, the fertility rate for young women dropped by more than half.

- Of the young women who had a child in 1983, **65%** of 15-19 year-olds and **20%** of 20-24 year-olds were unmarried. These figures have been increasing in recent years, as shown in the above graph.

- In 1981, ever married women between the ages of 15 and 20 had an average of 0.43 children (compared with 0.74 in 1961), while 20-24 year-olds had an average of 0.69 children (compared with 1.33 in 1961).

ABORTION

- In 1982, 66,254 therapeutic abortions were performed in Canada on Canadian women; **39,517** of these were performed on women under 25 years of age (516 of these on girls under 15).

- From 1974 to 1982, the number of abortions performed on 15-24 year-olds increased by 36%. There has been, however, a recent decrease in abortions on women under 20.

- The abortion rate (number of abortions per thousand women) is higher among young women than among their elders. In 1982, the abortion rate was 12 per thousand for 15-17 year-olds, 21 per thousand for 18-19 year-olds and 19 per thousand for 20-24 year-olds.

- The abortion rate varies across the country: New Brunswick has the lowest rate and the territories the highest.

- In 1982, there were 82 abortions per 100 births among 15-17 year-olds; the corresponding figures for 18-19 year-olds and 20-24 year-olds were 51 per 100 and 20 per 100, respectively.

- The majority of young women who have had an abortion are unmarried.

- Young women wait longer than their elders before getting an abortion, which partially explains the higher rate of medical complications following abortions on young women.

- Opinion surveys show that there is little difference in the attitudes of adults and young people toward abortion. While a majority of young people agree with the right to have an abortion, far fewer of them approve of abortions that are not necessary for health reasons.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This research report is part of a series which aims to analyze different aspects of the life of young Canadians. These reports are carried out within the framework of the Youth Research Programme of the Social Trends Analysis Directorate.

The present report concerns the family. It examines the characteristics and behaviours of young people with regard to various elements of family life. Its aim is to try to obtain a better understanding of how the changes which affect the institution of the family affect youth. Indeed, the family is said to be in a state of mutation. Certain factors which affect it are new and others have assumed greater importance recently; common-law unions, divorces, decreased fertility have modified the traditional life model. The way in which young people experience these changes as children, and the extent to which they adopt them once they have become adults, is certainly of great importance in considering the society of tomorrow.

Youth is defined as the population aged 15-24, according to the definition of U.N.O. which has proclaimed 1985 as International Youth Year.

The family is studied here from various points of view. Chapter 2 examines family lifestyles: young people still living with their parents; young people having already formed their own family, living together with or without children; young single parents, and young people living alone.

Chapter 3 is devoted to unions. An analysis is made of the marital status of young people, legal marriage and common-law unions among the young, as well as the disruption of unions through widowhood and divorce.

Chapter 4 also deals with the fertility of young women or young couples. Special attention is given to the fertility of single women.

Finally, in Chapter 5, the data available on abortion are analyzed since young women are those mainly concerned.

Thus, the deliberate goal of this document is to provide the reader with a set of statistics accompanied by relevant comments. These are sometimes unpublished data or, when they are published, most of the time are scattered over numerous publications. This report goes little beyond the limits of a description: its thrust is on information rather than explanation.

The data come mainly from Statistics Canada. They permit the analysis of behaviours or characteristics, but in an appointed, or transversal manner, as the demographers put it. Moreover, it was basically the availability and accessibility of the Statistics Canada data which determined the orientation of this research, the subjects studied and the period covered.

Wherever possible, the description takes differences of age, sex and province of residence into account. These distinctions illustrate clearly the heterogeneous character of youth. Similarly, studies in time allow a comparison to be made between young people today and those of yesterday. Lastly, whenever pertinent, youth are compared with their elders.

The report contains a voluminous appendix in which most of the basic data discussed in the text will be found.

Lastly, we should like to remind the reader of two important demographic facts:

1) The number of young people increased from 1962 to 1981, growing from 2.6 to 4.7 millions (Table A.1.1)[1]. The year 1981 marks a peak; from that date, the number of young people will gradually decline.

2) The young population is aging. Youth in 1961 consisted of more teenagers (54.8%) than young adults, whereas, in 1981, it is young adults who are changing the balance and beginning to gain ground (50.4%). This aging can explain slight variations in the characteristics or behaviours of youth (Duguay, 1984).

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[1] The tables with a number preceded by an "A" are presented in the Statistical Appendix.

2. FAMILY LIFESTYLES

2.1 Introduction

This chapter, more than any others, highlights two well known characteristics of youth: transition and heterogeneousness. Indeed, in this chapter, which attempts to give as faithful a picture as possible of the family context of youth based on census data, we shall find young people who still live as children in their family of orientation and others who have already left home to form their family of procreation or to live outside the family[2].

In this chapter, we generally consider only youth who live in private households; not included are those living in collective dwellings (see Table A.2.1 for definitions and figures) - a total of 54,030 young people, in a temporary residence (and not having been enumerated at their usual place of residence) or abroad. See the technical note on page 125. To simplify the analysis, three main categories of young people have been adopted: 1) youth living as **children** in their family of orientation, 2) youth living in their family of procreation, whether as a **couple** or as a **lone parent** and, lastly, 3) youth **outside the family,** and more particularly those living alone. This distinction simplifies the results of the census to a certain extent but highlights the main trends.

These data come from the censuses, the most recent being that of 1981.

The great majority of youth live within a family, whether their family of orientation or their family of procreation (Tables 2.1 and A.2.2). The largest group is that of young people who live as children with their parents: 68.4% of young men and 57.0% of young women, in 1981. This difference is mainly due to women's greater precocity in forming a new family. Indeed, a quarter of the young women live in a couple compared to 13.6% of young men. Among youth who have left their parents, six women out of ten, compared to four men out of ten, live in a couple. Few young people live outside the family (15.0% of young men and 13.7% of young women). Nonetheless, more young men live outside the family than in a couple.

Thus, behaviours differ according to sex: first, young men tend to remain with their parents more than do young women and, second, when they do leave home, they tend more to live outside the family, whereas young women more often leave home to form their own family.

Youth living west of Ontario seem to leave their parents' home earlier than those in the east; among those who leave their parents, the former also have a greater tendency to live outside the family. The proportion of youth who live in couples is also higher west of Ontario. This should be correlated with the marriage rates which, as we shall see in Chapter 3, are higher in Western Canada.

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[2] Family of **orientation:** The nuclear family into which a person is born or in which his original socialization occurs. Family of **procreation:** the nuclear family in which a person is a spouse.

Table 2.1: Percent (%) Distribution of Youth by Family Situation and Sex, Canada and Provinces, 1981

Province	Male					Female				
	Child	In couple	Lone parent	Out-side family	Other	Child	In couple	Lone parent	Out-side family	Other
Nfld.	77.2	12.4	0.1	7.6	2.7	63.1	24.3	1.4	9.4	1.8
P.E.I.	77.0	11.9	0.0	8.3	2.8	63.8	22.3	2.2	10.0	1.7
N.S.	70.5	13.5	0.1	11.3	4.6	59.6	24.5	2.2	11.7	2.0
N.B.	72.9	13.6	0.1	9.7	3.7	60.1	25.4	3.0	10.1	1.4
Que.	73.0	13.0	0.1	11.6	2.3	61.1	25.3	1.7	10.8	1.1
Ont.	71.8	12.4	0.1	13.0	2.7	60.5	23.7	2.0	12.5	1.3
Man.	65.3	14.1	0.2	16.6	3.8	53.1	25.5	2.3	16.7	2.4
Sask	61.2	16.4	0.1	18.5	3.8	48.0	29.5	2.5	17.8	2.2
Alta	51.1	17.6	0.2	27.6	3.5	41.8	32.7	2.2	21.1	2.2
B.C.	62.7	14.0	0.2	20.0	3.1	51.6	27.2	2.1	17.6	1.5
Yukon	49.7	16.5	0.0	24.9	8.9	37.9	33.1	2.9	21.1	5.0
N.W.T.	57.4	15.8	0.4	17.5	8.9	47.1	30.0	2.1	17.1	3.7
CANADA	**68.4**	**13.6**	**0.1**	**15.0**	**2.9**	**57.0**	**25.8**	**2.0**	**13.7**	**1.5**

Source: Table A.2.2.

2.2 Youth still at home[3]

The proportion of youth still at home (62.8%) varies considerably according to sex and age. In fact, it rapidly declines with age: from 92.6% in the 15-17 age group, it drops to 77.1% in the 18-19 age group and to 39.6% in the 20-24 age group (Tables A.2.3 and A.2.4). Proportionately less young women are found living with their parents than young men and the gap increases with age: among the 20-24 year-olds, nearly half the young men are still at home compared to less than a third of the young women.

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[3] Only still never-married young are considered as children at home.

Do young people now leave home at an earlier age than they did ten years ago? Table 2.2 indicates that behaviour has changed very little: 64.1% of young people aged 15-24 were living with their parents in 1971 compared to 62.8% in 1981. This decreasing trend appears only in the first five-year period, since a slight increase can be seen from 1976 to 1981. Obviously, these data show only a certain aspect of the phenomenon. For example, they do not allow for an analysis of "returns" - young people who leave home and then come back. But they nonetheless show that today's youth do not seem to leave home before their 25th birthday to any greater extent than did their counterparts in 1971.

Table 2.2.: Number and Percentage of Youth at Home, Canada, 1971, 1976 and 1981

Year	Number	%
1971	2,564,545	64.1
1976	2,793,085	62.4
1981	**2,926,075**	**62.8**

Source: Statistics Canada, 1971, 1976 and 1981 Censuses.

Table 2.3 gives a more detailed idea of the same phenomenon but only for the last five year period. With very few exceptions, the proportion of young people at home has grown slightly and this increase is more evident among the the 18-24 age group than among their juniors (who have not yet come of age).

2.2.1 Their family[4]

In 1981, most youth at home (83.9%) live in a two-parent family, against 16.1% who live with a lone parent (Table 2.4). The proportion of young people in a lone-parent family has increased since 1976, when it was 13.5%. Among the 470,000 young people in question, 79% live with their mother and 21% with their father.

There is little provincial variation in the proportion of young people in one-parent families: from 13.2% in Newfoundland to 17.1% in Quebec. The territories differ slightly from the provinces, with 18.3% in the Northwest Territories and 20.9% in the Yukon (Table A.2.5).

The most widespread type of one-parent family is that in which the parent is a widow/er: 37.9% of the 15-17-year olds and 55.4% of those aged 18-24 were living with only one parent in 1976. In the great majority of cases (82%), this parent is the mother. For these young people, the absence of the other parent is complete. Next come families disrupted by separation or divorce.

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[4] It is not merely a question here of consanguinity but also of family lifestyle. Thus, one of the two parents may be a step-father or step-mother; the child may also have been adopted.

Table 2.3: Percentage of Youth at Home by Age, Canada and Provinces, 1976 and 1981

Province	1976			1981		
	15-17	18-24	**15-24**	15-17	18-24	**15-24**
Newfoundland	92.1	49.4	**64.0**	93.2	57.8	**70.2**
Prince Edward Island	92.8	54.3	**67.8**	94.4	58.4	**70.5**
Nova Scotia	91.7	47.7	**62.1**	92.6	52.8	**65.1**
New Brunswick	92.8	49.6	**63.6**	92.9	54.3	**66.6**
Quebec	94.2	56.1	**68.3**	93.7	56.4	**67.1**
Ontario	93.0	48.8	**62.9**	93.7	54.5	**66.2**
Manitoba	90.9	41.9	**57.4**	90.9	45.7	**59.2**
Saskatchewan	90.8	39.1	**56.5**	90.3	38.8	**54.7**
Alberta	89.9	35.1	**52.0**	88.8	32.4	**46.6**
British Columbia	91.1	40.7	**56.8**	91.2	43.6	**57.2**
Yukon	80.2	26.0	**41.6**	79.4	28.6	**43.4**
Northwest Territories	84.8	32.1	**48.5**	83.3	37.7	**52.4**
CANADA	**92.6**	**48.1**	**62.4**	**92.6**	**50.5**	**62.8**

Source: Calculated from Catalogues 93-831 and 93-832 for 1976, and from Table A.2.3 and Catalogue 92-901 for 1981.

Table 2.4: Number and Percent (%) Distribution of Youth at Home, by Type of Family and Age, Canada, 1976 and 1981

Type of family	1976		1981	
	15-17	18-24	15-24	15-24
Two-parent	1,160,210 (87.5)	1,245,710 (85.5)	2,414,920 (86.5)	**2,456,100** **(83.9)**
One-parent	166,030 (12.5)	212,135 (14.5)	378,165 (13.5)	**469,960** **(16.1)**
- mother	134,415 (10.1)	172,360 (11.8)	306,775 (11.0)	**373,500** **(12.8)**
- father	31,615 (2.4)	39,775 (2.7)	71,390 (2.5)	**96,460** **(3.3)**
TOTAL	1,326,240 (100.0)	1,466,845 (100.0)	2,793,085 (100.0)	**2,926.060** **(100.0)**

Source: Statistics Canada, 1976 Census, Catalogues 93-832 and 93-833, and Table A.2.5.

This situation affects the 15-17-year-olds (29.4% and 25.5% respectively) more than their elders aged 18-24 (20.7% and 17.1%) The latter are more affected by the death of one of their parents. Very few young people live with an unmarried parent (2.0% among the 15-17 age group and 1.7% among the 18-24 year olds living with only one parent)[5].

2.3 Young couples

In 1981, **914,855 young people live in couples;** of these, 35% (320,545) are men and 65% (594,310) are women. They represent 13.6% of the total young male population and 25.8% of all young females (Table 2.5) These considerable sex differences can be explained by young women's greater precocity to marriage and by the age gap between the spouses (Chapter 3).

Living together begins earlier, in fact, for young women than for young men. Among the 15-17 age group, nine times more women than men live in a couple. The precocity of young women is obvious not only when we look at the age distribution of youth living together, but also when we examine the rates (Table 2.5).

Table 2.5: Number of Youth Living in a Couple, Percent (%) Distribution and Rate compared to Total Youth Population, by Age and Sex, Canada, 1981

Age	Number		Distribution (%)		Rate (%)	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
15-17	1,050	9,695	0.3	1.6	0.2	1.5
18-19	13,355	58,315	4.2	9.8	2.8	12.5
15-19	14,405	68,010	4.5	11.4	1.2	6.0
20-24	306,145	526,305	95.5	88.6	26.1	45.0
15-24	**320,540**	**594,310**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**13.6**	**25.8**

Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census, unpublished data.

Nonetheless, among both sexes, life as a couple is fairly rare before age 20: 1.2% of men and 6.0% of women. Among the 20-24 age group, it is more widespread but still affects only a minority, especially among men: 26.1% of men, 45.0% of women.

Young couples can be distributed according to whether they live in a primary or secondary family[6] which sheds some light on the degree of responsibilities (financial or other) which they have to assume. Almost all (95%)

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[5] These data, not presented, are for 1976.

[6] Primary family refers to the census family in which a person responsible for household payments is a member; Secondary family refers to any census family in which a person responsible for household payments is not a member (Statistics Canada, 1981 Census, Catalogue 92-905).

young people live in a primary family, and this percentage applies as much to young men as to young women. Thus, most young couples assume the financial support of their household. These data do not, however, reveal to what extent parents, for instance, contribute financially or otherwise. It is in Quebec that we find the highest proportion of young couples living in a primary family (97%), whereas in Newfoundland this proportion is only 82% (Table A.2.6).

All these young people living in couples are considered by Statistics Canada as being married, whereas some live in a common-law union. This question is examined in Chapter 3. The fertility of young couples is also studied in Chapter 4.

2.4 Young lone parents

In 1981, the Census listed **48,055 young lone parents** (heads of a one-parent family) compared to 35,730 in 1976 and 28,820 in 1971, i.e. an increase of 67% during the decade (Table 2.6). The upswing has been slightly more rapid during the last five years (35%) than during the 1971 - 1976 period (24%), which suggests an acceleration in the growth of this phenomenon. The number of young single parents has increased more rapidly than for the population as a whole. This explains why the share of youth among the whole lone parent population increased from 6.1% in 1971 to 6.7% in 1981.

The increase in the number of young single parents can mainly be explained by the simultaneous growth in the number of young single mothers (see Chapter 4) and the proportion of these who now keep their child (instead of putting it up for adoption).

Table 2.6: Number and Percent (%) Distribution of Young Lone Parents by Sex, Canada, 1971, 1976 and 1981

Year	Male	Female	Total
1971	----	----	28,820
1976	2,925 (8.2)	32,810 (91.8)	35,730 (100.0)
1981	2,530 (5.3)	45,525 (94.7)	**48,055** (100.0)

Source: Statistics Canada, 1971 Census, Bulletin 2.2-9, 1976 Census, Catalogue 93-833 and 1981 Census, Catalogue 92-905.

In relation to the total youth population, young lone parents nonetheless constitute a very small minority, i.e. 0.1% of young men and 2.0% of young women in 1981 (Table 2.1). By province, this percentage varies slightly more for women (from 1.4% in Newfoundland to 3.0% in New Brunswick) than for men.

The lone-parent family remains essentially a female phenomenon: **94.7%** of young lone parents in 1981 are women. Moreover, this trend is on the upswing judging by the trend between 1976 and 1981.

Marital status is also differentiated according to sex: lone mothers are mainly single (53.9%), whereas lone fathers are mainly separated (53.7%). The proportion of never marrieds is as high as 36.2% among young lone fathers. The proportion of separated mothers amounts to 34.5%. Next come divorced and widowed parents (Table A.2.7).

There are also marked differences in the family lifestyles of young lone parents. Indeed, women show a much greater tendency to live in a primary family (82.0%) than men (54.3%). The never married (men and women) have a greater tendency than the ever marrieds to live in a primary family. Note, for example, that **91.3%** of young unmarried women live in this type of family.

Table A.2.8 shows marked provincial differences in the lifestyles of young lone parents. Thus, in Quebec, only 12.4% of young lone parents live in a secondary family, compared to 51.1% in Newfoundland.

Lastly, it should be noted that young lone parents tend to live in a secondary family more than do young people who live in couple.

2.4.1 Young lone mothers

We have a certain amount of supplementary data permitting a more accurate analysis of the characteristics of young lone mothers for the 1971-1981 period. These data are only available for young mothers who, in 1981, it will be remembered, represent 94.7% of young lone parents.

In 1981, the majority of young lone mothers (87.0%) are aged 20 to 25, followed by those aged 18-19 (10.9%). Very few are aged 15-17 (2.1%) (Table 2.7). During the 1971-1981 period, moreover, the proportion of 15-17-year-old mothers has decreased whereas that of the 20-24-year olds has increased. A certain aging is therefore noticeable in the age structure of young lone mothers. This structure varies between provinces: younger in New-Brunswick where 17.4% of lone mothers are under 20, older in British Columbia where only 10.1% of young mothers are aged 15-20 (Table A.2.9).

Table 2.7: Percent (%) Distribution of Young Lone Mothers, by Age, Canada, 1971, 1976 and 1981

Age	1971	1976	**1981**
15-17	4.2	3.2	**2.1**
18-19	10.8	12.4	**10.9**
20-24	85.0	84.4	**87.0**
15-24	100.0	100.0	**100.0**

Source: Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

The marital status of young lone mothers has also changed since 1971: less are widows or separated and more are unmarried (Table A.2.10). This tendency is largely due to the increase in births among unmarried mothers (Chapter 4). It will also be noted that the proportion of unmarried women decreases with age (from 88.0% among the 15-17-year olds to 53.7% among the 20-24-year olds, in 1981).

In each age group, most young lone mothers live in a primary family, but the youngest (15-17-year-olds) have a greater tendency to live in a secondary family than the oldest (18-24-year-olds). Nothing can be concluded concerning chronological trends because the notion of both primary and secondary families, in the censuses, has changed.

Chapter 4 presents an analysis of the fertility of young lone parent families.

2.5 Youth living outside the family

In 1981, 15.0% of young men and 13.7% of young women - **666,530 young people, live outside the family.** Of these, 27.5% live in a family household to which they are not related while the majority (72.5%) live in a non-family household. Among these young people living in a non-family household, a distinction is made between those living with one or more non-family members and those living alone (Table A.2.11).

The overwhelming majority of youth living outside the family are unmarried and most (73.2%) are aged 20-24. The age structure is younger among women than among men. Young people in an (unrelated) family household differ from other young people outside the family: the former are younger than the latter, with 47.0%, and 19.2% aged 15-19, respectively. In all, slightly more men than women live outside the family, except among those living alone.

2.5.1 Youth living alone

A relatively new lifestyle, which has developed remarkably in Western countries, including Canada, is characterized by a marked upswing in the number of persons living alone. This is mainly due to two factors: 1) the aging of the population which causes an increase in the number of elderly persons living alone (mainly widows) and 2) the gradual tendency of young people to leave home to live alone rather than to get married.

For the period between 1971 and 1981, the number of youth living alone almost tripled, increasing from 69,485 to **201,090** (Table 2.8). The increase was much more marked during the first five-year period, in which the number more than doubled, than during the second, which indicates that the phenomenon is probably slowing down.

The proportion of young people living alone increases with age: thus, while only 0.2% of the 15-17-year-olds live alone, this rate increases to 2.4% among the 18-19-year-olds and to 7.5% among the 20-24-year-olds (Table 2.9).

There is obviously little difference according to sex, except for a slightly greater precocity in living alone among women than among men. The reader is invited to consult Table A.2.12 for the provincial data.

The overwhelming majority of youth living alone are unmarried (95%) and this trend has intensified since 1971. Next come the separated (about 4%); moreover, this group is larger among women and among the 20-24-year olds. Very few young people living alone are married, widowed or divorced.

Table 2.8: Number of Youth Living Alone, by Age and Sex, Canada, 1971, 1976 and 1981

Age and sex	Numbers			Rate			Increase	
	1971	1976	1981	1971	1976	1981	1971-76	1976-81
Total								
15-19	9,530	21,925	25,445	0.5	0.9	1.1	130.1	16.1
20-24	59,955	121,335	175,645	3.2	5.7	7.5	102.4	44.8
15-24	**69,485**	**143,270**	**201,090**	**1.7**	**3.2**	**4.3**	**106.2**	**40.4**
Male								
15-19	3,880	9,290	11,020	0.4	0.8	0.9	139.4	18.6
20-24	30,710	60,455	89,250	3.3	5.7	7.6	96.9	47.6
15-24	**34,595**	**69,745**	**100,270**	**1.7**	**3.1**	**4.3**	**101.6**	**43.8**
Female								
15-19	5,645	12,635	14,420	0.5	1.1	1.3	123.8	14.1
20-24	29,250	60,880	86,400	3.1	5.7	7.4	108.1	41.9
15-24	**34,895**	**73,515**	**100,820**	**1.8**	**3.3**	**4.4**	**110.7**	**36.4**

Source: Statistics Canada, 1971 Census, unpublished data, 1976 Census, and Table A.2.11.

Table 2.9: Youth Living Alone by Age and Sex: Number, Percent (%) Distribution and Rate, Canada, 1981

Sex and age		Number	Distribution (%)	Rate (%)
Total	15-17	2,675	1.3	0.2
	18-19	22,775	11.3	2.4
	20-24	175,645	87.4	7.5
	15-24	**201,090**	**100.0**	**4.3**
Male	15-17	1,205	1.2	0.2
	18-19	9,815	9.8	2.0
	20-24	89,250	89.0	7.6
	15-24	**100,270**	**100.0**	**4.3**
Female	15-17	1,470	1.5	0.2
	18-19	12,950	12.8	2.8
	20-24	86,400	85.7	7.4
	15-24	**100,820**	**100.0**	**4.4**

Source: Table A.2.12.

2.6 Summary

The behaviours of young people, as noted and described by the statistics analyzed up till now, do not seem to be those of a generation which contests the family.

The great majority of youth live within a family context, either that of their family of orientation or of procreation. Moreover, the young people of 1981 do not seem to leave home more than did those of 1971. On the contrary, during the 1976-1981 period, there was a very slight increase in the proportion of young people at home. More recent data (1984) from Statistics Canada's Family History Survey suggest (even though a direct comparison with the census data is difficult) that this upward trend is continuing (Burch, 1985).

Simultaneously with this trend, even though the number of young people living alone continues to increase, there was a noticeable slowing down of this phenomenon between 1976 and 1981.

The difficult economic conditions of the early '80s will perhaps have had the effect of delaying departure from home and perhaps even leading some young people to return home. The fact of staying at home, moreover, is not always only a question of choice. Thus, Peters (1985b) states that "Youth unemployment prolongs the period of time they are dependent on parents. A large number of youth would move away from their parents if they had the financial means." A study of young social welfare recipients in Quebec reveals that "it is not always of their own free will that young social welfare recipients live at home. Half of them think of leaving their parents to go and live in an apartment: to do so, the girls wait for a partner, the boys for a job" (Dandurrand, 1985, p. 7). Moreover, among those living with their parents, "one case in three (had) already lived elsewhere than at their parents' home, it is really a return for them." (idem).

These elements concord with other studies. "We can say that marital status, age and sex are not the most important variables in the choice of setting up a household. It is income that seems to play a more determinant role (...) we have also observed a trend to return home among young people who experience a drop in income (...). All lengthy periods of unemployment have been characterized by this return to the family" (Dorbes, 1984, p. 17).

With the help of the available statistics, another correlation may be established between the family and the socio-economic situation. Indeed, the fact of living in their parents' home encourages youth school attendance: young people living with their parents have higher school attendance rates than those living outside the family. What these statistics cannot tell us is the significance of the correlation: are the young people who stay at home more likely to further their studies or do those wishing to further their studies tend to stay at home? Conversely, do young people who have left their parents have more problems in pursuing their studies (for economic reasons, for example) or, again, are those who have abandoned their studies better able (on account of their economic independence, for instance) to leave their parents?

There are sometimes also quite marked differences in school attendance rates according to characteristics of the family or parents. A two-parent family, and parents' high level of schooling and occupation probably reflect a higher income which, all things being equal, also helps the young man or woman to further his/her studies.

Furthermore, economic activity is less common among young people living at home than among those living outside the family, which probably is explained by their lesser material responsibilities.

Lone parenthood increased considerably during the '70s, at a slightly faster pace among youth than among their elders. The typical young lone parent is a 20-24-year old woman who is the head of her family. In most cases, she is unmarried. These trends have intensified, moreover, between 1971 and 1981.

"Living alone" and single parenthood have assumed greater importance recently among the young population. Another phenomenon, studied in the following chapter, has also grown in popularity: the common-law union. These new family lifestyles are more widespread among youth than among older age groups. "Living alone" is "a transitory phase of life which is now becoming an accepted period in the life cycle" (Dorbes, 1985). It will be interesting to see to what extent this lifestyle does or does not become a lengthier "period" for the new generations, and to what extent it still constitutes a "transitory phase". Lone parenthood and common-law unions, for their part, are merely alternative family forms, and perhaps also only transitory phases which, for many young people, will eventually lead to the traditional form of the nuclear family. What would be interesting to know is the extent to which these different family lifestyles intervene in the social integration of youth.

Although there is no direct answer to these questions, the attitudes of young people on certain family-related questions can nonetheless be examined. The results examined here are essentially taken from a Gallup Poll carried out in 1982 and one of Goldfarb, in 1983. It should be noted that the questions dealing more specifically with marriage and divorce, children and abortion, are discussed in Chapters 3, 4 and 5 respectively.

Eighty-five percent of 18-24-year-olds (92% of those aged 25 and over) think that attaching greater importance to family life is a good thing. Among other changes proposed, it is the one that young people value most (see Table A.2.13). Among a set of goals and aspirations, the desire "to have a stable and enriching family life" comes third: 82% of the 15-24-year olds attach great importance to it (Table A.2.14).

For most young people, love and respect must define the child-parent relationship, and on this point, young people's opinion is identical to that of those aged 25 and over (Tables A.2.15 and A.2.16).

On certain aspects, however, the young differ somewhat from their elders. Thus,

- 59% of young people tend to agree that "a child needs a home with both a father and a mother to grow up happily,"; 66% of the older group expressed the same opinion;

- only 20% of young people compared to 25% of the older group think that "a woman has to have children in order to be fulfilled";
- asked whether "the needs of a family should come before a woman's personal ambitions", 67% of young people tended to agree, compared to 77% of the older group (a similar question was not asked about men's ambitions...).

What about the relationships the young had (or still have) when they were (are) children? 87% of young people say they were very close or quite close to their mother (82% of the over-25s) and 74% to their father (71% of the over-25s). Generally speaking, the young (and this is equally true for the over-25s) consider themselves closer to their mother than to their father (Table A.2.17).

Lastly, only 15% of young people think that their parents are or were very strict, compared to 33% among the 25 and over group.

These results do not seem to indicate any widening of the generation gap. Though superficial, they perhaps even indicate closer family ties; a survey by Peters (1985a) found that a large proportion (81%) of parents said they had changed some of their attitudes and 56% some of their behaviours, under the influence of their teenage children. In the author's view, this influence is probably much stronger now than previously.

Most young people say they live in a happy home: over 70% say they often feel happy, relaxed and secure at home (may be the family home or not). Once again, there is very little difference with the older group. Less than 20% say they often feel anxious or aggressive at home. Here, the percentages are slightly lower among the older group (Gallup, 1982).

Questioned as to their degree of satisfaction with their life at home, 24% of the young people said they were very satisfied (10 on a scale of 10) compared to 33% of the older group. But when a weighted mean is calculated, there is very little difference between the satisfaction of youth and that of their elders.

As regards the family as the primary source of training, education and socialization, what are the values that youth (and their elders) consider as the five most important to acquire at home? 79% of the young people surveyed mention honesty, 57% good manners, 51% tolerance and respect, 42% politeness and 34% responsibility. Interestingly, the young once more differ very little from their elders (Gallup, 1982).

What do young people think about the sharing of duties in the home and the "status of women"? Over 90% of young people think that if both spouses work they should share household duties equally and that the woman should have as much say as her husband in family decisions. These opinions are also shared by the older group (Gallup, 1982).

The Goldfarb survey also reveals young people's opinion on task sharing: 96% of young people think that the father is just as responsible for child care as the mother, while 90% think that household tasks must be shared equally, and 87% that so should the household's financial responsibilities. There is very little difference due to age or sex, or to province of residence (young Quebeckers tend to agree slightly more). Finally, 14% of the young people think that a woman's place is in the home (Goldfarb, 1983).

3. CELIBACY, MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

This chapter concerns marital status, marriage, disrupted unions, remarriages and common-law unions among youth. The main thrust of the analysis deals with behaviours, as deduced from the Censuses and Vital Statistics, but some attitudinal data are also examined.

A large number of young people live in couple, many have already founded a family and, in some cases, this family has broken up before they reach age 25. An examination of the ways in which young people form and disrupt a union is therefore not without interest. The viability of the family is often questionned: the growing number of common-law unions and the increase in divorces, in particular, reveal a change in the family. Are young people, who are generally considered to be the main catalysts of change in a society, actually experiencing this change?

3.1. Mainly unmarried

Most 15-24-year-olds are single. The pattern according to marital status rapidly changes with age, however: while at age 15, almost all young people are single, at age 24, only half the men and a third of the women still are (Figure 3.1).

Marriage under age 20 is uncommon: 1.5% of men and 6.6% of girls between the ages of 15 and 20 are married in 1981 (Table A.3.1). Women therefore marry earlier and this sexual difference is already obvious at an early age (Figure 3.1).

In the 20-24 age group, 27.8% of men and 48.0% of women are married. The gap between the sexes is thus still maintained at these ages.

Very few young people are divorced, widowed or separated.

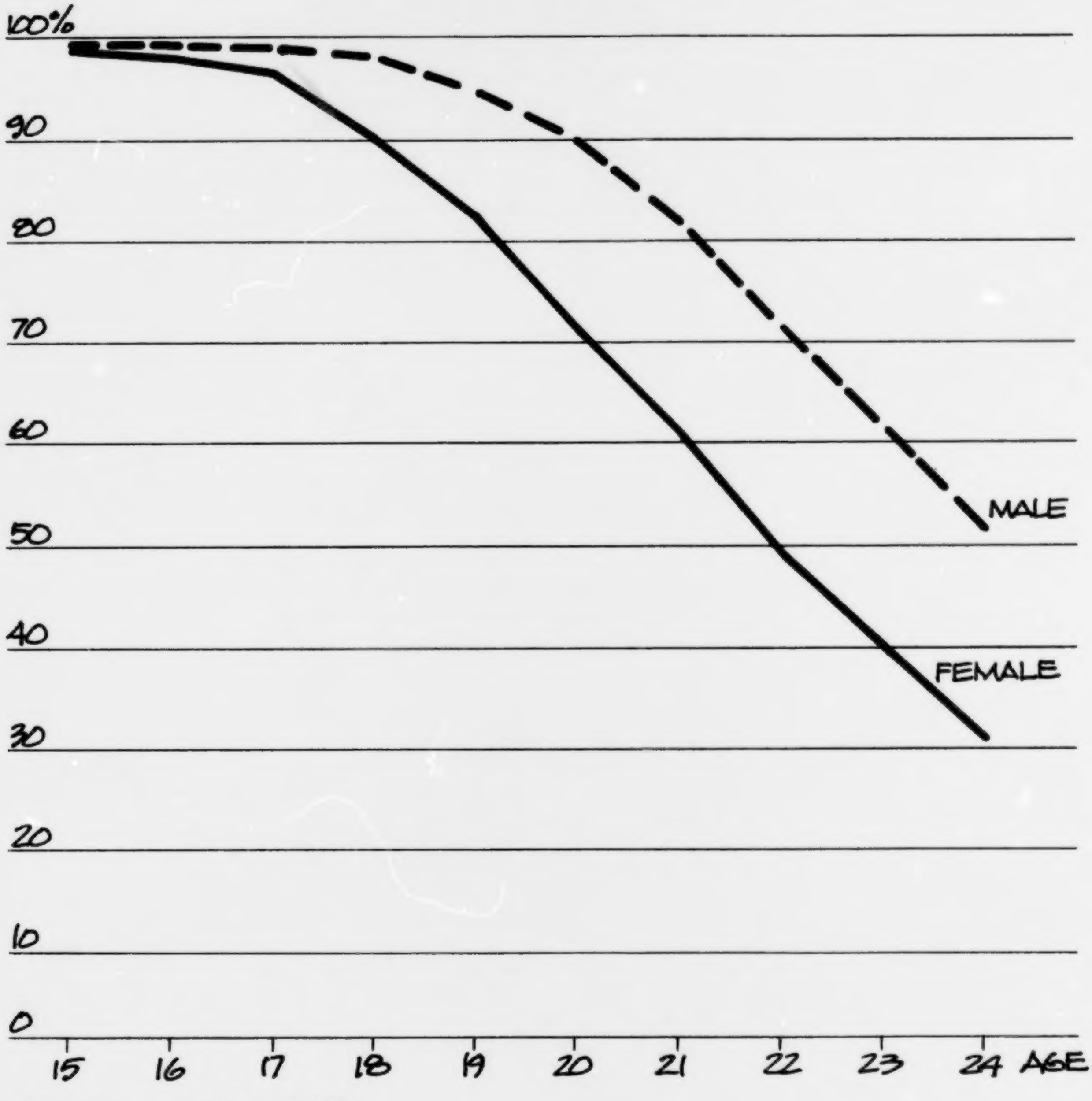
From 1976 to 1981, the proportion of single youth increased. This trend is marked in both sexes and in all provinces. Thus, marriage under 25 is apparently losing ground. Population estimates by marital status produced by Statistics Canada confirm this trend, at least up till 1984 (Table 3.1).

Table 3.1: Per Cent Proportion of Unmarried Youth by Age and Sex, Canada, 1976, 1981 and 1984

Sex and age	1976	1981	1984
Male			
15-19	98.0	98.4	99.4
20-24	67.7	71.9	79.7
Female			
15-19	91.8	93.3	96.5
20-24	45.3	51.1	59.8

Source: Tables A.3.1 and A.3.2 and Dumas (1985).

FIGURE 3.1 PROPORTION OF NEVER MARRIED YOUTH, BY AGE AND SEX, CANADA, 1981



SOURCE : TABLE A.3.3

It should be noted, however, that among youth described as "married," some are actually living common-law (Chapter 3.6). Thus, the point to note in this decline in the importance of marriage is not merely its decline as such, but rather the fact that young people generally tend to live less in a couple, whether the union is legal or not.

3.2 Legal union

The marriage rate indicates the incidence of legal marriage in a population for a given year. In 1983, 56 marriages were recorded for 1,000 men and 70 for 1,000 women aged 20-24 and 4 marriages for 1,000 men and 20 for 1,000 women aged 15-19 (Tables A.3.4 and A.3.5).

Figure 3.2 illustrates the decline in marriage rates from 1977 to 1983, and confirms the drop in the incidence of legal marriage among youth. Figure 3.3 shows that in Quebec, the rates are generally lower than those of the other provinces. Moreover, in the under 20s, the rates are higher in Western Canada: people therefore marry somewhat earlier there.

The decline in the marriage rates noted at the national level among the 15-19-year-olds applies to all provinces (Table A.3.4). Among the 20-24 age group, the trends are less clear and differ from one province to another (Table A.3.5).

3.3 Youth marries Youth

It is commonly believed that women usually marry older men. We now test this notion on young people themselves.

Table A.3.6 shows the distribution of marriages, contracted during a given year, by age of spouses. It will be noted that young men mostly marry women of the same age group: in 1983, 67.6% of men under 20 married women under 20 and 68.0% of men aged 20-24 married a woman in the same age group. 32.4% of boys under 20 married a woman older than themselves; among young men aged 20-24, 21.5% married a younger woman and 10.5% an older woman. The situation is different for young women. Those under 20 mainly marry older men (85.5%). Those aged 20-24 mainly (55.1%) marry a man of their own age group or older (43.3%).

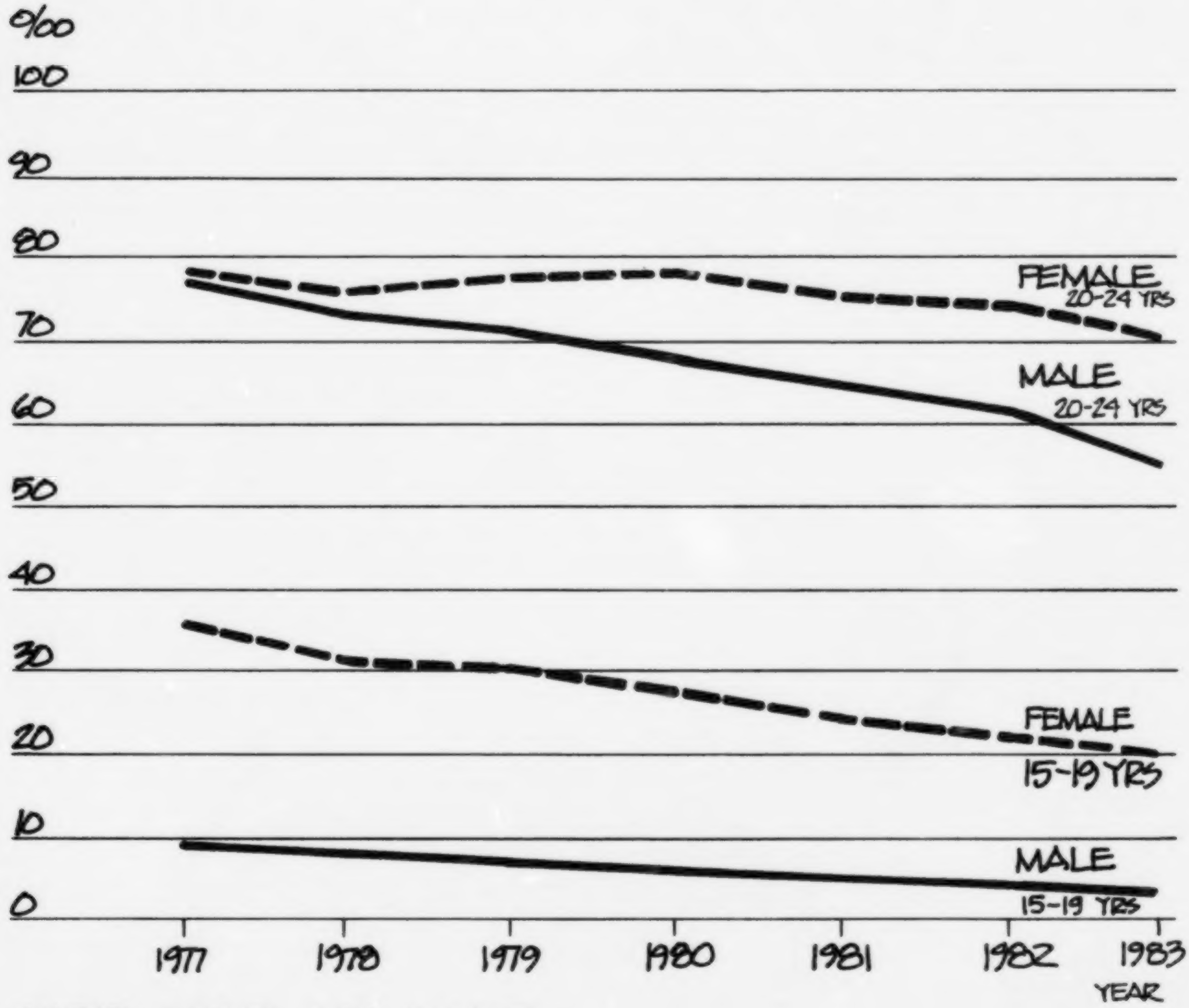
This profile has changed slightly over the years. In general, young men tend more and more to marry women of their own age group or older women and less and less younger women. Among women, this same trend seems to apply in spite of fluctuations.

Nonetheless, the majority of youth marriages are between young people.

3.4 Divorce

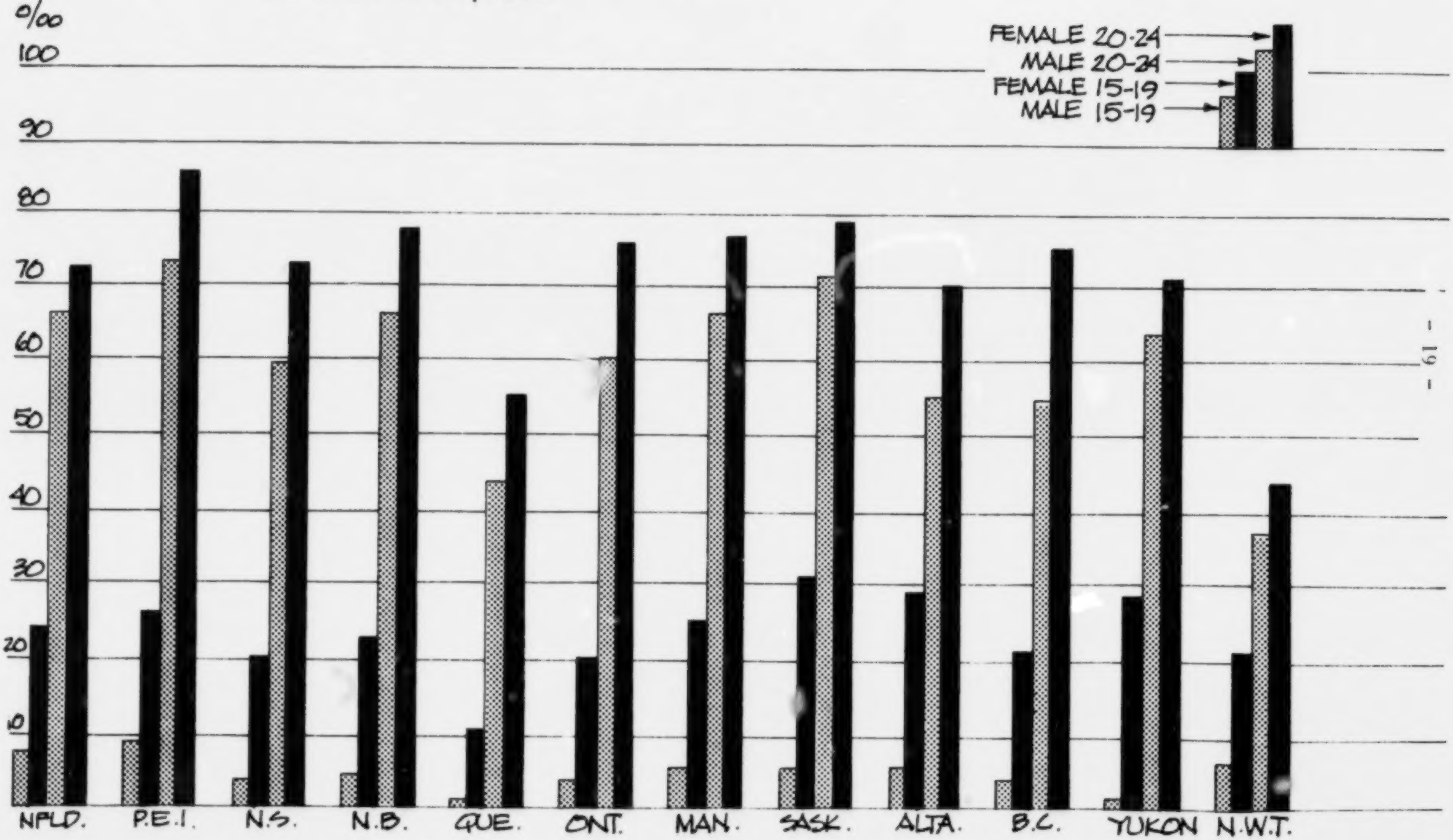
In 1981, at the time of the Census, there were in Canada 12,930 divorced young people, most aged 20-24 (12,310); 73% of them were women and 27% men. These 13,000 young men and women only represent 0.3% of Canada's total youth population. In spite of this small number of divorced youth, we considered that a sub-section devoted to this growing phenomenon of divorce would be of interest.

FIGURE 3.2 : MARRIAGE RATES (%o) OF YOUNG PEOPLE BY AGE AND SEX, CANADA, 1977 TO 1983



SOURCE: TABLES A.3.4. AND A.3.5

FIGURE 3.3. MARRIAGE RATES (‰) OF YOUNG PEOPLE BY AGE AND SEX,
BY PROVINCE, 1983



SOURCE: TABLES A.3.4 AND A.3.5.

In 1983, a total of 68,567 divorces were reported in Canada: 7,119 of them involved a young woman and 2,752, a young man; among the latter, 2,213 involved both a young woman and a young man (Table A.3.7). The large number of divorces among young women compared to that of young men will be better understood when it is remembered that, between ages 15-24, more women than men are married.

From 1972 to 1983, the number of divorces in Canada more than doubled, following a steadily upward curve, except in 1983 when the number of divorces actually decreased. Divorces involving at least one young person also followed a general upward curve, but less marked and with numerous fluctuations (Table 3.2).

Table 3.2: Numbers of Divorces by Age at Divorce and Sex, Canada, 1972-1983

Year	Male			Female		
	15-19	20-24	All ages	15-19	20-24	All ages
1972	15	1,808	32,364	189	4,207	32,364
1973	31	2,016	36,704	212	4,664	36,704
1974	13	2,399	45,019	264	5,618	45,019
1975	44	2,685	50,611	294	6,301	50,611
1976	32	3,059	54,207	363	6,848	54,207
1977	35	3,226	55,370	339	7,249	55,370
1978	33	3,362	57,155	354	7,439	57,155
1979	28	3,274	59,474	274	7,650	59,474
1980	34	3,263	62,019	282	7,621	62,019
1981	30	3,172	67,671	270	7,693	67,671
1982	30	3,187	70,436	248	7,549	70,436
1983	**22**	**2,730**	**68,567**	**216**	**6,903**	**68,567**

Source: Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics.

A study of the rates tells us more about the impact of divorce in a population. There are two different types of divorce rate. The first, the crude divorce rate, relates the number of divorces to the population as a whole, irrespective of marital status. The second, the modified crude divorce rate, relates the number of divorces to the married population[7]. This second rate is certainly more interesting since it records the phenomenon for the actual population concerned. Unfortunately, Statistics Canada usually only publishes the first rate. We shall thus first of all examine these results for the recent period, 1977-1983, and then go on to study the second type of rate which we have only calculated for 1981.

The crude divorce rate varies greatly according to age and sex. It is always higher among women than among men and higher among the 20-24-year-olds than among the 15-19-year- olds (Tables A.3.9 and A.3.10). This is hardly surprising: the population at risk, namely the married population, is larger among women than among men and among the 20-24 age group than among their juniors. The crude divorce rate increases with age to peak at age 25-29 among women (1,464.6 per 100,000 in 1983) and at 30-34 among men (1,544.5 per 100,000 in 1983). Divorce rates among youth are among the lowest: among men, only the rate for those aged 55 and over is lower than that of the 20-24-year-olds and among women, only the rate of those aged 50 and over is.

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[7] We have borrowed the terminology adopted by Basavarajappa (1978).

In 1983, the crude divorce rates were 2.0 and 20.6 per 100,000 among men and women aged 15-19; they reached 227.1 and 581.7 per 100,000 respectively among the 20-24-year-olds.

Rates also vary considerable from one province to another. Thus, among women aged 20-24, the rates vary from less than 300 per 100,000 (Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and the territories) to 1,059.6 in Alberta. Two types of factors may explain these variations: 1) the proportion of the population "at risk" which varies from province to province, as we saw above and 2) the propensity to divorce among married persons. It is actually this second factor which is of particular interest. It can be isolated by a study of the second type of rate. The interest of the crude rate, as noted above, is its availability for analyzing trends. The effect of the population structure by marital status remains a disturbing factor, but we consider it to be negligible here for the study of trends over time.

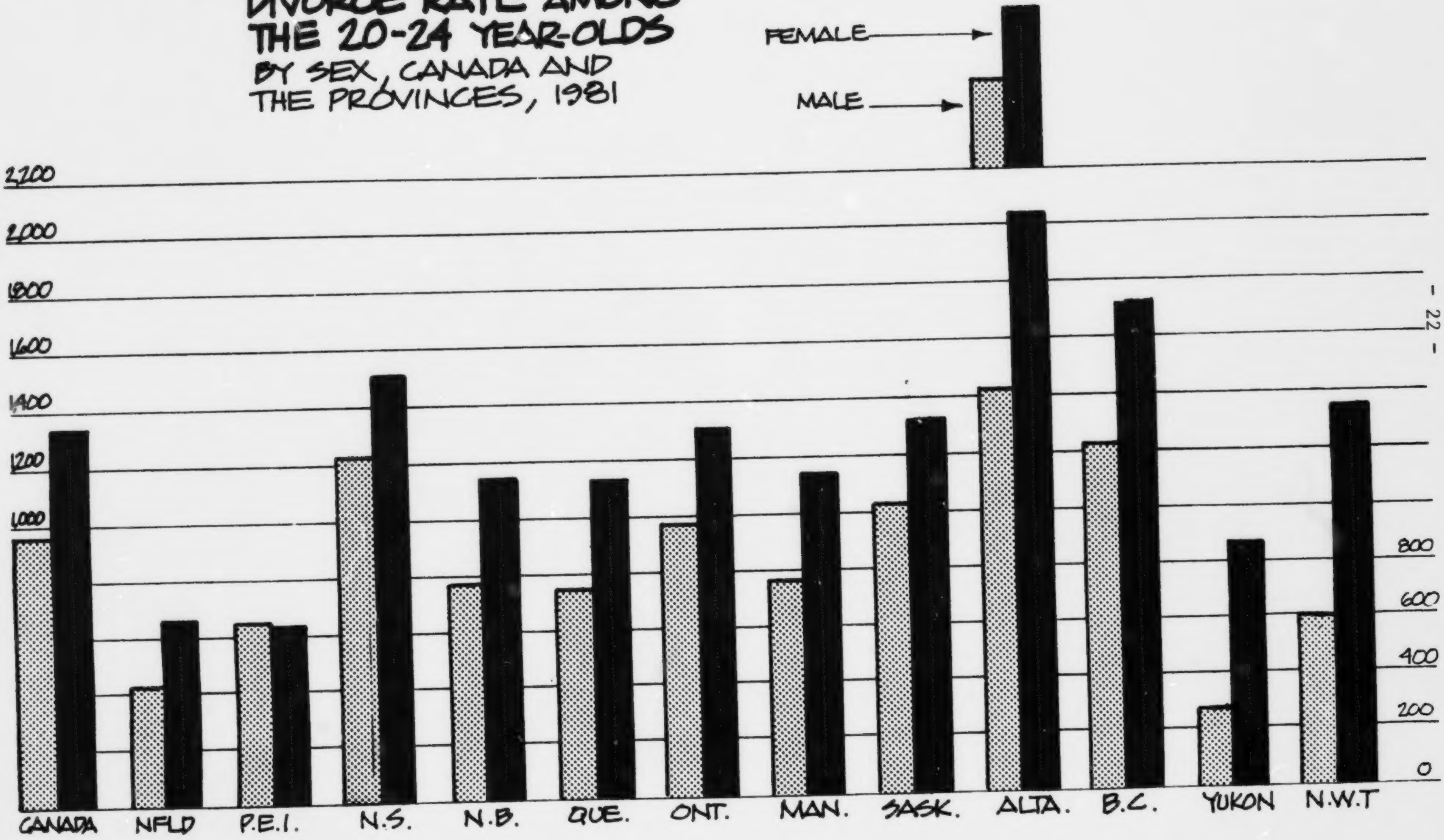
At the national level, there were marked fluctuations in the crude divorce rate from 1977 to 1983: after a slight upswing, the rate declined in the early '80s. Tables A.3.9 and A.3.10 show that the curve followed by the crude divorce rates varies from one province to another.

The modified divorce rates, it will be recalled, relate the number of divorces to the married population and provide a better evaluation of the phenomenon. However, the denominator includes unmarried persons living in a common-law union who, as we have seen, are considered as married. Since these persons obviously cannot divorce, the rate thus calculated underestimates the actual situation.

Table 3.3 presents the modified rates by sex, age and province. The rates for the 20-24 age group are shown in Figure 3.4. The above remarks still apply but the modified rates henceforth reveal the real propensity to divorce: the rates are higher among women than among men and among the 20-24-year olds than among their seniors. In 1981, for 100,000 young married women aged 20-24, 1,371 obtained a divorce. Among the 20-24-year-olds, the rates are rather low in Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, higher in New Brunswick, Quebec and Manitoba, followed by Ontario, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, British Columbia and, lastly, Alberta.

For the period 1969-1979, McKie et al (1983) noted that, for the population as a whole, 66% of divorces are sought by the wife (see Table A.3.8). This percentage varies with age: among women, it peaks at 81% among the under-25s and gradually declines with age (p. 135). It should be remembered, however, that among youth under 25, there are more married women than married men which, of course, partly explains the high proportion of women among those seeking divorce under age 25.

FIGURE 3.4 MODIFIED CRUDE DIVORCE RATE AMONG THE 20-24 YEAR-OLDS BY SEX, CANADA AND THE PROVINCES, 1981



SOURCE: TABLE 3.3

Table 3.3: Modified Crude Divorce Rate (per 100,000 Married), by Age and Sex, Canada and Provinces, 1981

Province	Male		Female	
	15-19	20-24	15-19	20-24
Newfoundland	-	403.62	-	633.59
Prince Edward Island	-	629.37	377.36	627.45
Nova Scotia	487.80	1,228.91	862.42	1,507.94
New Brunswick	666.67	776.84	248.76	1,144.60
Quebec	55.17	767.90	293.85	1,139.74
Ontario	154.11	897.78	330.83	1,294.11
Manitoba	-	761.70	324.96	1,124.78
Saskatchewan	202.02	1,061.95	224.44	1,333.61
Alberta	306.64	1,481.40	576.76	2,054.16
British Columbia	45.35	1,203.53	342.15	1,696.16
Yukon	-	263.16	-	851.06
Northwest Territories	-	598.80	-	1,349.21
CANADA	**160.04**	**972.83**	**363.07**	**1,370.60**

Source: Calculated from the 1981 Census and Vital Statistics.

The distribution of divorces among youth according to grounds for the divorce[8] is also available for the 1969-1979 period. It should be noted that these are the grounds officially alleged during the divorce proceedings, but that it is impossible to evaluate to what extent they correspond to the primary and real cause of the marriage break-up. Table A.3.11 gives the distribution of the population seeking a divorce by alleged grounds. Only the 20-24-year-olds have been analyzed since there are so few divorces among those aged 15-19. It will be seen that this table indicates the grounds for a divorce in which a young man (or young woman) is involved and not the grounds actually alleged by the young man (or young woman) concerned.

Adultery accounts for an overwhelming proportion of divorces involving a young person (46% of divorces involving a young man and 44% a young woman, in 1979). The allegation of adultery peaks, moreover, among youth and declines with age (McKie et al., p. 142). Young people are probably less bothered by the social stigma and moral disapproval attached to the idea of adultery (McKie et al., p. 144). On the other hand, non-cohabitation is mentioned far less often among youth than among their seniors and is less frequent in divorces involving a young man than a young woman. Since this reason effectively implies a 3-year separation, young persons are less likely to be able to invoke it, first, because their marriage has been fairly short and, second, because a 3-year waiting period, given their youth, may seem long to them. No important changes can be seen between 1969 and 1979: the frequency of adultery has declined somewhat and that of non-cohabitatation has slightly increased.

Marriages between persons presenting similar characteristics have a greater chance of success. Age is apparently one of these characteristics: divorce rates are lower when the age gap between spouses is five years or less. We saw above, however, that most young people marry someone within these age limits (McKie et al, pp. 83-87). American studies have nonetheless shown that young men under 25 married to women aged 14-17 had higher levels of instability; higher levels also occur when women over 25 were married to men aged 22-24 and when women aged 22-24 were married to men aged 20-21 (McKie et al., p. 83).

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[8] These unpublished data were provided by Mr. McKie of Statistics Canada.

There is a positive correlation between age at marriage and risk of divorce: the younger one marries, the higher the risk of divorcing. Duchesne and Roy (1983, p. 201) report that in the United States, women who marry before age 20 divorce twice as much as those marrying between ages 20-30. In Quebec, among those marrying in 1968, after 11 years of marriage, 17% of the women married at age 15-19 were divorced, against 10% and 7% of those marrying at 20-24 and 25-29 respectively (idem).

McKie et al have also shown the existence of this relationship based on Canadian data and cite certain, mainly American, findings which attempt to explain this relationship. For further details, the reader should refer to this work (pp. 78-80); we shall merely mention here some of the reasons put forward: unrealistic expectations among young people, thus greater disappointment: greater dependence on parents (especially in the young woman), which can harm the conjugal relationship; pre-marital pregnancies which occur during the couple's adjustment period and which can add to their financial problems. Other factors such as lack of education, drop-out, job precariousness, can also intervene.

3.5 Remarriage

Do divorced or widowed youth tend to remarry before age 25? Table A.3.12 shows that almost all marriages among the 15-24-year-olds are marriages between single persons, therefore first marriages. Nonetheless, there are a certain number of remarriages, and this more frequently among women than among men and among the 20-24-year-olds than among their juniors. There are also more remarriages among the divorced than among the widowed, but these figures say little about the propensity to remarry according to whether the person is widowed or divorced. For this reason, we must examine the rates by marital status. Before doing so, it should nonetheless be noted that distribution of marriages by former marital status changed very little between 1977 and 1983 except for a slight increase in the proportion of single 20-24-year-old females.

The marriage rate can be examined by former marital status to evaluate the propensity to marriage of single, widowed or divorced youth[9]. Table 3.4 shows that remarriage is fairly frequent among 20-24-year-old divorced youth, reaching 289 per 1,000 women. Remarriage rates are higher among women than among men, among the 20-24-year olds than among their juniors and among the divorced than among the widowed. These figures confirm the commonly held theory that divorce does not necessarily indicate refusal of marriage but is often a stage in the process of contracting another marriage.

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[9] These rates relate 1981 marriages for a given marital status to the population surveyed in 1981 according to this same marital status. It should again be remembered that the definition of marital status refers to a de jure situation in the Vital Statistics and to a de facto situation in the census.

Table 3.4: Marriage Rate by Former Marital Status, Age and Sex, Canada, 1981

Age and sex		Marriage rate (per 1,000)		
		Unmarried	Widowed	Divorced
15-19	Male	5.8	-	4.7
	Female	26.8	8.3	142.5
20-24	Male	90.5	44.2	227.0
	Female	143.4	94.8	289.3

Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census and Vital Statistics

3.6 Common-law union

In spite of the importance given to the common-law union, there is little documentation or statistics available concerning this phenomenon.

In the 1981 Census, the question on "Relationship with Person 1" (Question 2) included the box "In common-law partnership with Person 1" as well as a space in which the respondent could write an "other" relationship if the latter did not figure in the categories of Question 2 (e.g. Partner in common-law union with boarder). For the first time, this permitted a detailed study of the common-law union in Canada[10].

For Canada as a whole, 713,340 persons (356,670 men and the same number of women) said they lived in a common-law union: among these, 233,520, or 32.7%, were young people (Table 3.5). Among the women living common-law, youth counted for 39.8%.

The number of persons living common-law increases rapidly with age to peak at age 24 for men and 21 for women (Table A.3.15). "The common-law union, like marriage, moreover, comes much later among men than among women" (Duchesne, 1984b). At age 16, 15 times more women than men were reported as living in a common-law marriage; at 19, there were three times as many women as men. The numbers only balance out at age 24. However, over age 25, more men than women live in a common-law union.

Youth living in a common-law union represent 5.0% of the total youth population (3.9% of young men and 6.2% of young women). The common-law union is therefore relatively rare among the young. The rate increases with age: from less than 1% at age 15, it rises to 8.9% among 24-year-old men, and to 9.8% among 22-year-old women (See the technical note on page 125).

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[10] We wish to mention the valuable collaboration of Messrs Gerry Ouellette and J.A. Norland who provided us with unpublished data for this sub-chapter.

However, if only young people living together are considered (the de facto "marrieds" of the Census), the impact of this life style among young Canadians becomes more obvious: nearly a quarter of youth living together (28.5% of young men and 23.9% of young women) live in a common-law union. At certain ages, moreover, they represent half of the total youth population living together (Table A.3.13).

Some international comparisons show that Canada occupies an intermediary position with regard to common-law unions: this phenomenon is less common here than in Sweden, but more frequent than in France or Great Britain (Table A.3.14). A study of experiences in other countries shows that wherever the common-law union has emerged, "it can be related to a decrease in the number of first marriages and a rise in the average age at first marriage" (Duchesne & Roy, 1983, p. 190). Moreover, "wherever the phenomenon has emerged, its development has been sudden and rapid" (idem, p. 191).

Two models of cohabitation seem to emerge: in Sweden, it constitutes a relatively long-lasting situation whereas in France, it generally constitutes a rather short premarital episode (idem, p. 191). Moreover, "the presence, birth or desire for a child seem hardly to modify the probability of marriage in Sweden, whereas they constitute a major incentive in France" (idem, p. 191).

Table 3.5: Numbers and Percent (%) Distribution of Youth Living in a Common-law Union by Age Group and Sex, Canada, 1981

Age	Number			Distribution		
	M	F	T	M	F	T
15-19	8,340	32,450	40,790	2.3	9.1	5.7
20-24	83,090	109,640	192,730	23.3	30.7	27.0
15-24	91,430	142,090	233,520	25.6	39.8	32.7
25+	265,240	214,580	479,820	74.4	60.2	67.3
TOTAL	356,670	356,670	713,340	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Table A.3.13.

3.7 Summary

The statistics analyzed above seem to suggest that marriage is less popular with youth: the marriage rates have recently followed a downward trend and the proportion of married youth has also declined even when young people living in a common-law union are taken into account. We have also seen that divorce is by no means uncommon among youth but that a proportion of these divorced young people remarry before age 25.

No obvious conclusions can be drawn concerning the behaviour of this 15-24 age group: will they marry less, will they marry later, will those who do marry divorce more? These are all questions which cannot at present be answered. What is certain, however, is that young people today marry less and divorce more under age 25 than youth in the early '70s. Thus, it is safe to say that today's youth, under age 25, differ in this respect from previous generations.

Certain data are available which reveal young people's opinions concerning marriage and divorce. This information actually reveals very few differences in attitudes between young people and their seniors: the great majority of 18-24-year-olds (81%) do not think marriage is an outdated institution; their attitudes on this point are very similar to those of their seniors (Table A.3.15).

Although most young people seem to believe in the institution of marriage, very few think that a couple should get married before living together. Indeed, at least six out of ten 15-24-year-olds are in favour of living together (Table A.3.16). This positive opinion on living together before marriage is shared by youth of both sexes and age groups and of all regions (note that it is strongest in Quebec). Youth therefore still believes in the institution of marriage but favours a trial marriage. The effect of this might be to delay marriage but not necessarily to eliminate it.

If we now take a look at the importance accorded by the different age groups to various factors making for a successful marriage, we see that these factors are ranked in the same order by youth as by their seniors (Table A.3.17). The three most important factors are: mutual respect, faithfulness and understanding and tolerance. Next come a happy sexual relationship and children.

Young people seem to give more importance than their seniors, however, to the following factors: a satisfactory sexual relationship, sharing household chores, and tastes and interests in common. They give less importance than their seniors to the following factors: living apart from your in-laws, being of the same social background, income, good housing, shared religious beliefs and agreement on politics and, lastly, children. They all accord the same importance to mutual respect, faithfulness, and understanding and tolerance.

As regards tolerance towards divorce, here again young people differ very little from their seniors: divorce seems scarcely more justifiable to the former than it does to the latter. In the opinion of 15% of the 15-24-year-olds (10% of the over-25s), divorce is never justified while a mere 6% of both groups think it is always so (Table A.3.18). Youth's tolerance of the divorce of parents with young children varies: 42.3% of the 15-24-year-olds think these parents should not divorce whereas 39.7% think they may. Young men are more opposed to divorce in this case than young women: 29.6% among the former and 16.2% among the latter (Table A.3.19). It may be asked whether, since the mother usually assumes responsibility for the children in a divorced couple, boys, as children, are more afraid than girls of separation from their father or, as future fathers, are afraid of separation from their children. The 15-19-year-olds also disapprove more of divorce when there are young children than do the 20-24-year-olds: 26.5% compared to 19.6% respectively. Regional variations are also marked: Quebec is the region where opposition to the divorce of parents with young children is strongest.

As in the degree of tolerance towards divorce, few differences are to be seen in the grounds considered acceptable for a divorce by young people compared to their seniors (Table A.3.20). Unfaithfulness and violence are the reasons most frequently considered sufficient for a divorce: they are mentioned by over 80% of both young people and their seniors. Next comes the reason that one partner has ceased to love the other: this is mentioned far more by the young (84%) than by their seniors (70%). Moreover, this last factor is the only marked difference between the two groups. Slightly over 60% of young people and their seniors consider excessive drinking as sufficient reason for a divorce. Far behind come incompatibility and unsatisfactory sexual relations. The other reasons are mentioned by less than 10% of the population surveyed. It should also be noted that, while 6% of the seniors consider than none of the reasons mentioned justifies a divorce, this view is shared by only 3% of young people. Of equal interest is the fact that, compared to their seniors, an at least equal, but often higher, proportion of youth consider the reasons mentioned as sufficient for divorce.

Thus, these findings of public opinion polls suggest repeatedly that there is very little difference in attitudes between young people and their seniors on questions of marriage and divorce.

4. FERTILITY

This chapter presents an analysis of youth as parents, based on the fertility statistics. This phenomenon is approached in two ways: 1) the fertility of young women and 2) the number of children born in families headed by a young man or woman. This analysis is based on the Vital Statistics which provide, for any given year, the number of births occurring during the year. It is also based on census data which provide information concerning the total number of children ever born to each woman ever married (cumulative fertility)[11].

4.1 Fertility of young women

4.1.1 Births

In 1983, 364,760 live births were reported in Canada[12], of which **132,596** (36%) involved women aged 15-24 (222 births were also reported for women under age 15). Young women, and especially the 20-24-year-olds, thus represent a very important segment of women giving birth to a child during a given year. The number of births varies with the age of the mother: from 890 to women under 15, it rises to 28,036 at 24-year-olds, peaks at about age 25-26 and then declines with advancing age (Figure 4.1 and Table A.4.1).

For most young women who gave birth to a child in 1983, this was their first child. However, the proportion of first births declines with age and drops from 97% at age 15 to 52% among 24-year-old women (Table A.4.2).

4.1.2 Fertility rates

Two types of rates are examined here: age specific fertility rates, taking the total female population into account, and the fertility rates of married women (Section 4.1.3).

The age specific fertility rates increase up to ages 25-29. In 1983, the fertility rate of the 15-19-year-olds was **24.9°/oo** compared to **92.4°/oo** for the 20-24-year-olds (Table 4.1)[13]. The fact that few young women are married (especially among the 15-19-year-olds) partly explains their fairly low rates in spite of their high fertility. The fertility rates of married women, which we shall examine further on, show a different situation from that based on the general fertility rates.

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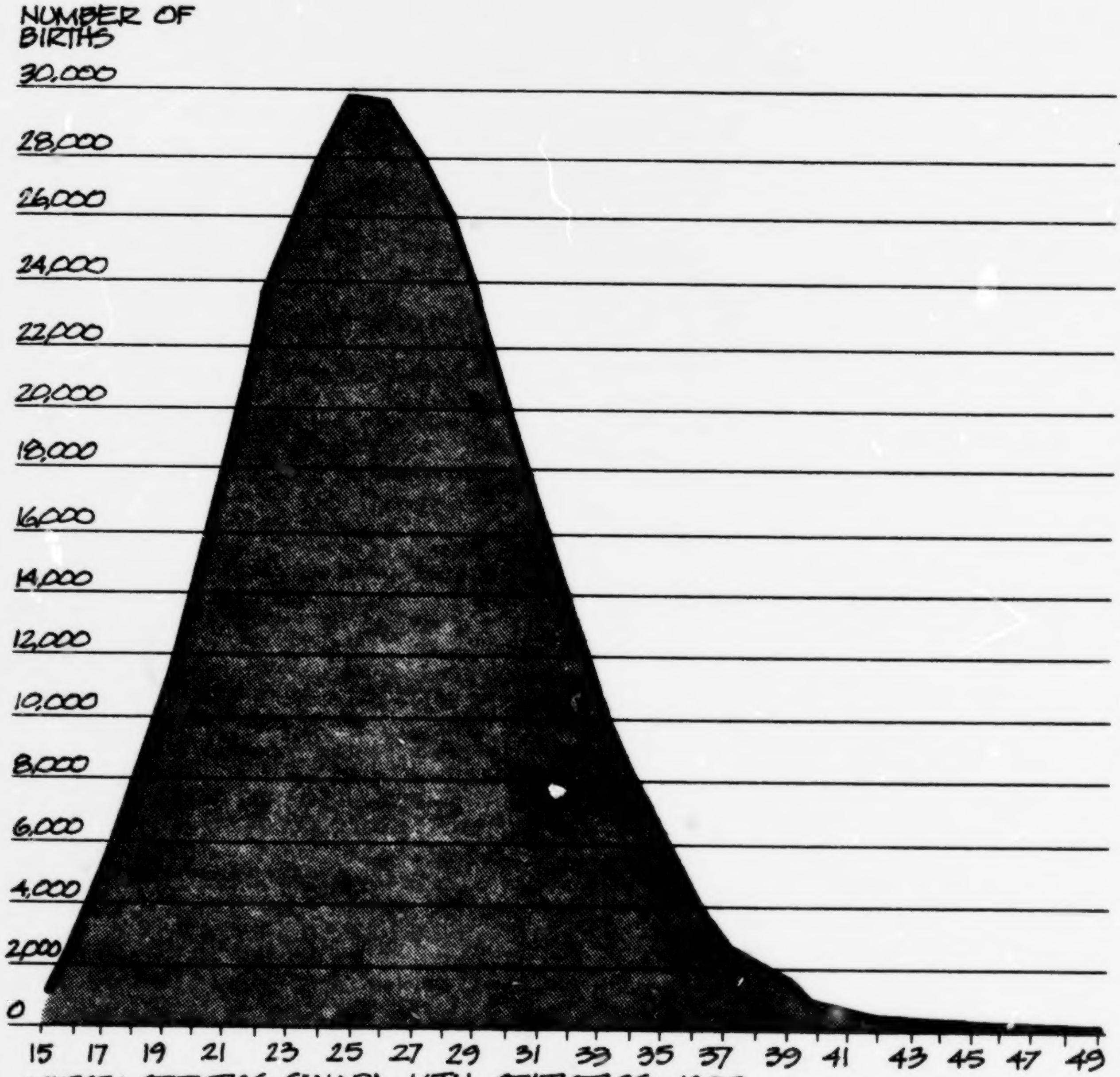
[11] It will be remembered that women who reported that they live in a common-law union are considered here as married.

[12] These figures do not include Newfoundland. This province is usually excluded from the Vital Statistics tables, since it uses a different and less exhaustive data collection system than that of the other provinces.

[13] Rate per 1,000 females, hence the symbol °/oo.

FIGURE 4.1 NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS BY AGE OF THE MOTHER, CANADA, 1983



SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA, VITAL STATISTICS, 1983

Table 4.1: Age Specific Fertility Rates (per 1,000 Females), Canada, 1983

Age	Fertility rate
15-19	24.9
20-24	92.4
25-29	124.6
30-34	70.5
35-39	20.5
40-44	3.0
45-49	0.2

Source: Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics, 1983.

Fertility rates vary considerably across the country (Figure 4.2 and Table A.4.3). The lowest rates are mainly to be found in Quebec, but also in Ontario, while the highest rates are reported in the Northwest Territories.

Between 1961 and 1983, fertility mainly declined among women over age 35, but also showed a spectacular decline among the under-35s, especially among the 15-24-year-olds (Figure 4.3). During this period, the fertility rates dropped from 58.2 to 24.9°/oo among 15-19-year-old women and from 233.6 to 92.4°/oo among the 20-24-age group, thus declining by more than a half (Table A.4.3). Fertility has continued to decline in recent times, but at a slower pace. There has even been a slight upswing recently among women in their thirties. The nationally observed decline recurs in each province, but at different rates.

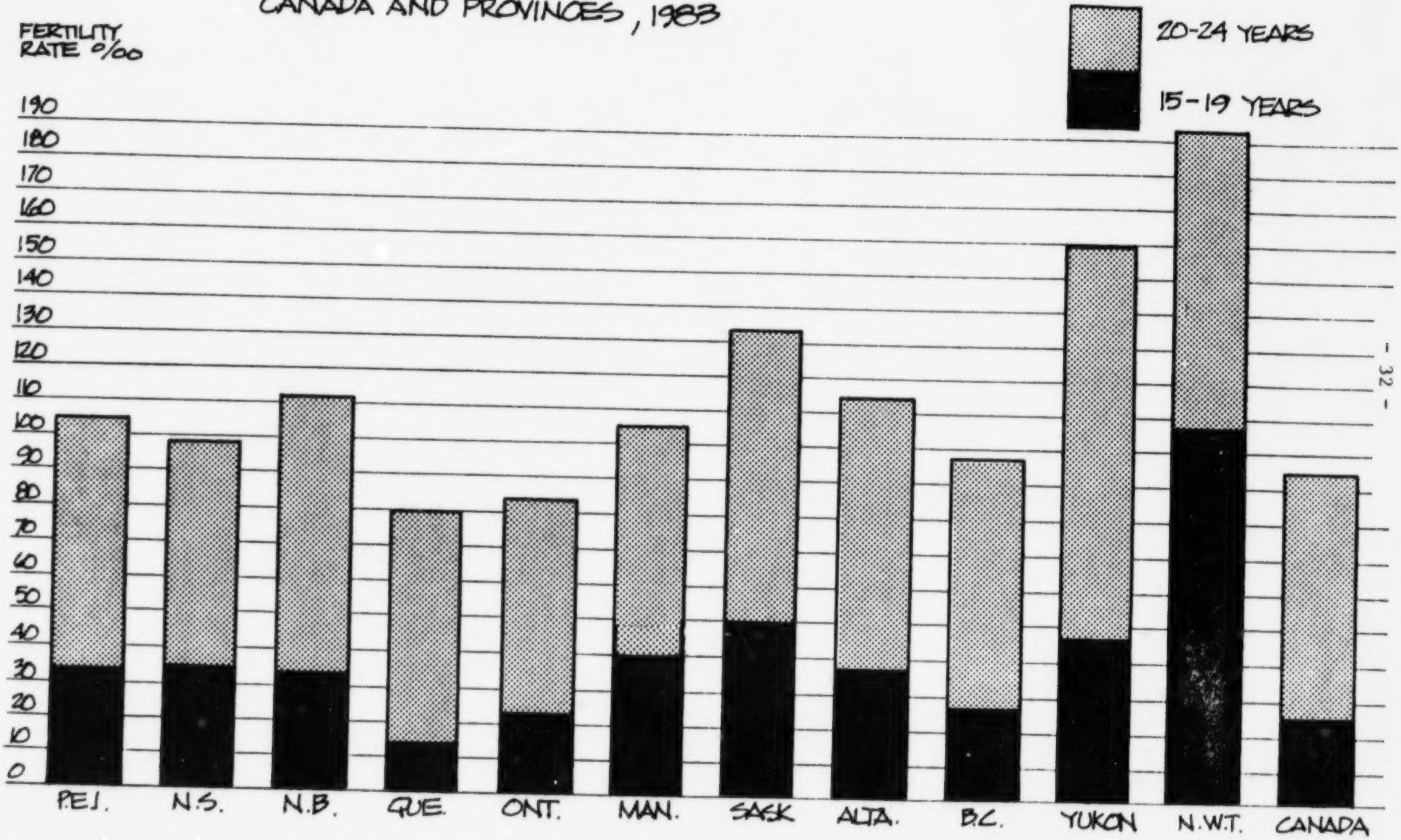
A quick comparison of Canada's fertility rates with those of other countries shows that young Canadian women have a rather low fertility. For instance, for 1978-1979, young British and American women had higher fertility rates than young Canadian women. As regards teenage fertility, in particular, the findings of a study (Westaff, 1983) show that, in this regard, Canada, compared to 32 populations of industrialized countries, ranked among the moderate fertility level group in 1971, and that these rates showed a slight to moderate decrease during the following decade.

4.1.3 Births and marriage

Chapter 2 indicated that a considerable number of young women were both single, mothers, and heads of lone parent families. Most single mothers are indeed young: 72% of single women giving birth to a child in 1983 were aged 15-24. Before an analysis is made of the available statistics, two points must be made:

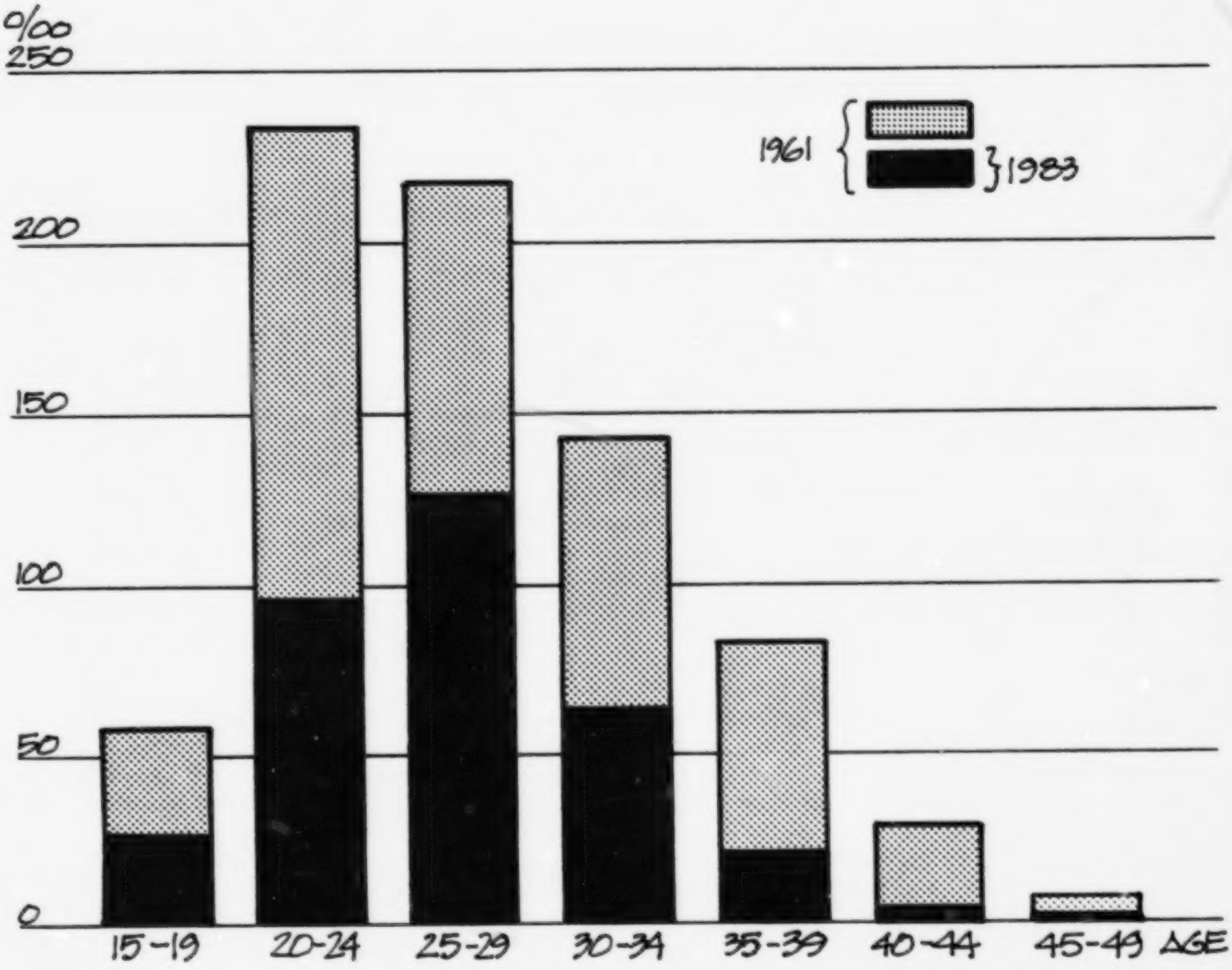
a) among young women, births among single mothers and births outside marriage are practically synonymous. As there are relatively few young widowed or divorced women, there are therefore few births on the part of these women. Since we do not know, in the case of widowed or divorced mothers,

FIGURE 4.2 AGE SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES (0/00) AMONG YOUNG WOMEN,
CANADA AND PROVINCES, 1983



SOURCE: TABLE A.4.3

FIGURE 4.3 AGE SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES (0/00)
CANADA, 1961 AND 1983



SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA, VITAL STATISTICS, 1977 AND 1983 whether conception took place within wedlock, these data are hard to interpret. We have therefore chosen to analyze the case of single mothers, which actually eliminates very few births (Table A.4.5 shows that over 95% of births outside wedlock among young women involve single women).

b) the Vital Statistics from which we take the data on births count only legal marriages whereas the census counts marriages and common-law unions as indistinguishable. For the purposes of this analysis, we were obliged to combine these two sources. The figures we calculate must therefore be merely regarded as indicators.

In 1983, **16,516** single women aged 15-19 and **21,531** aged 20-24 gave birth to a child. These figures show a considerable increase compared to 1961, when only 7,548 and 6,841 births respectively were recorded for single mothers[14]. This increase in numbers is reflected in the rise in the proportion of births to single mothers among the total number of births. Figure 4.4 shows that from 1961 to 1983, the proportion of births to single mothers went from 19.2% to 65.4% among the 15-19-year-olds and from 5.0% to 20.1% among the 20-24-year-olds. The most rapid increase has taken place in the most recent period.

Table A.4.6 shows that the above observations apply to all the provinces. The proportion of births to single mothers in the 15-19 age group is still higher than among the 20-24-year-olds. Among the 15-19-year-olds, it varied, in 1983, from 59.6% in Ontario to 74.1% in Quebec; among the 20-24-year-olds, from 15.1% in Ontario to 26.6% in Quebec. Once again, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories are characterized by very high rates.

To obtain a better idea of the impact of this phenomenon among the young women themselves, the calculation of rates is preferred. As we have mentioned, however, the only rates that we were able to calculate compare two different types of information: the de jure single women of the Vital Statistics and the de facto single women of the census. The result is an over-estimate of the fertility rates of single women and an under-estimate of the fertility rates of the "already marrieds." But the extent of this over- or under-estimate is not known nor whether it is the same for the two age groups and the different provinces.

Fertility rates by marital status (Table 4.2) show that the situation described above is not as dramatic as it seems. In 1981, about 16 15-19-year-old women per 1,000 single women and nearly 30 single women per 1,000 women aged 20-24 gave birth to a child. The phenomenon is therefore more common among 20-24-year-old women than among their juniors. For the two age groups, the fertility rates of single women are far lower than those for young ever married women. Thus, for young women, marriage apparently continues to be a more favourable context for fertility than the unmarried state.

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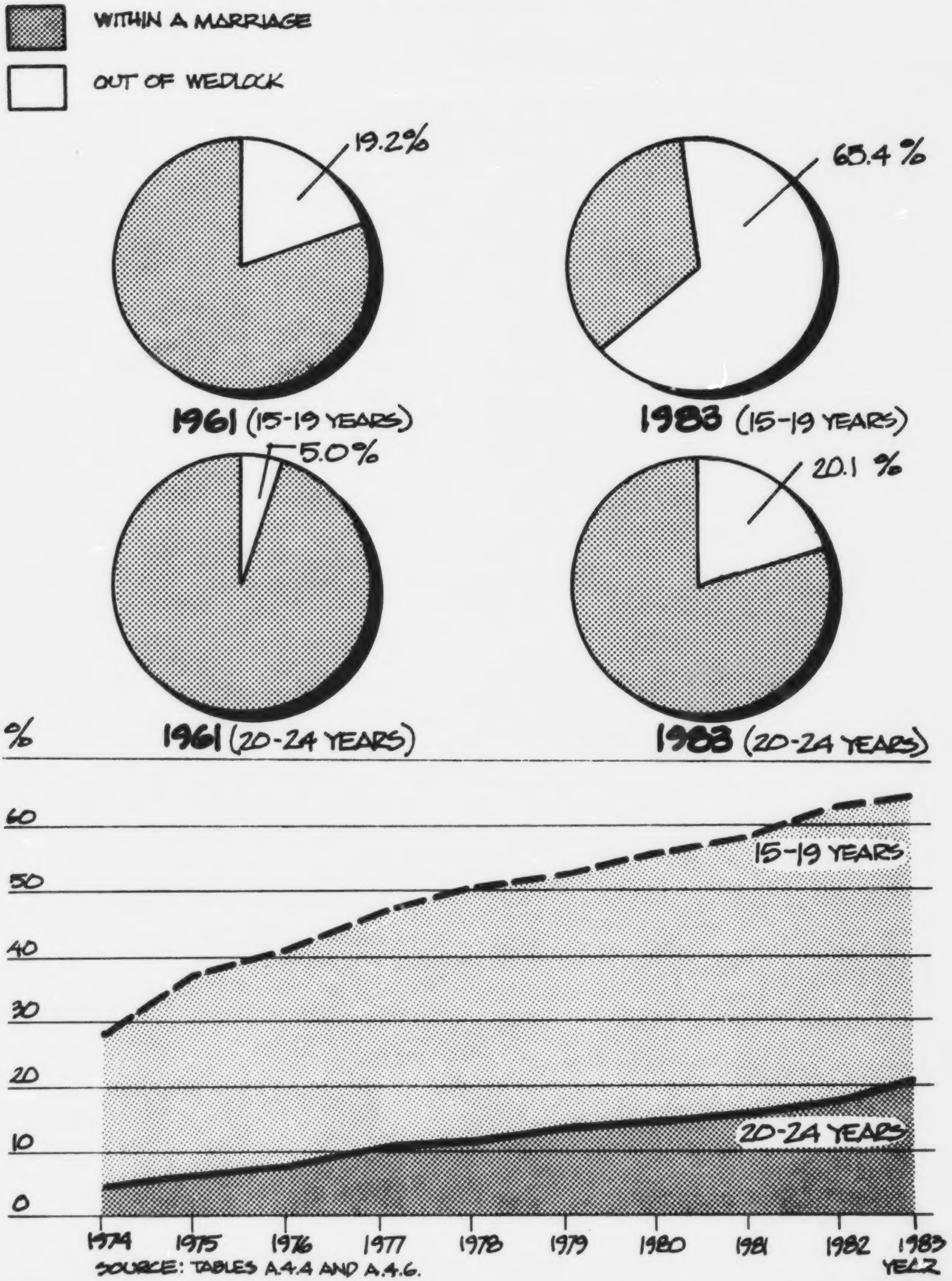
[14] See Tables A.4.4 and Figure 4.4. The notion of "illegitimacy" has evolved in the statistics since 1961. The data compared here are not based on the same definition but, in our view, this should not significantly affect the trends observed.

FIGURE 4.4: SHARE OF OUT-OF-WEDLOCK BIRTHS AMONG YOUTH, CANADA, 1961 AND 1983, AND 1974 TO 1983



SOURCE: TABLES A.4.4 AND A.4.6.

Table 4.2: Fertility Rate per 1,000 Young Females by Marital Status and age, Canada and Provinces, 1981

Province	15-19 years			20-24 years		
	Total	Single	Already married	Total	Single	Already married
Prince Edward Island	33.5	24.5	233.7	109.0	31.8	193.7
Nova Scotia	35.2	24.5	206.0	103.9	35.7	173.8
New Brunswick	35.1	23.9	216.9	116.7	40.6	187.0
Quebec	15.0	10.5	92.7	87.9	32.8	150.1
Ontario	23.1	13.3	181.7	89.1	19.6	169.3
Manitoba	39.9	27.7	197.2	107.7	42.3	174.7
Saskatchewan	47.9	34.1	203.7	137.6	55.7	201.3
Alberta	43.6	26.3	178.8	112.0	36.0	172.2
British Columbia	29.0	19.4	136.7	99.5	35.5	162.6
Yukon	66.3	56.9	145.2	137.1	100.4	164.5
Northwest Territories	113.0	109.1	137.7	175.4	170.0	179.8
CANADA	**26.4**	**16.4**	**155.4**	**96.7**	**29.6**	**162.4**

Source: Calculated from births of the 1981 Vital Statistics and the 1981 Population Census.

There are marked differences in the fertility rates of single women for the different provinces: Ontario and Quebec have the lowest rates and Saskatchewan the highest (apart from the Territories where the rates are much higher than the national average).

We have only calculated fertility rates by marital status for 1981, but Dumas & Boyer (1985) have calculated them for Canada for the period 1977-1982. During those years, the rate rose from 15.8°/oo to 17.2°/oo for the 15-19-year-olds, and from 22.9°/oo to 31.8°/oo for the 20-24 age group.

The findings of a survey conducted in Nova Scotia in 1978 (MacDonnell, 1981) of all single women who gave birth to a first child and decided to keep it (n-346), shed some light on the phenomenon of single mothers, even though these results cannot necessarily be generalized to the country as a whole.

While we have no age-specific data, we do know that 94% of unwed primiparae are aged between 14 and 25. The findings concerning these women are sometimes compared, in this study, with those for ever married primiparae. On the average, the latter are older since only 59% of them were under 25. It is important to remember these factors since a woman's age will determine some of her personal characteristics.

Here then are some of the findings of this survey:

- unwed primiparae are more likely than married women to come from a broken home (31% against 15%);

- 80% of the unwed primiparae had not finished high school against 34% of the married; only 2% of the single women had at least started their university studies against 20% of the ever married women;

- only about 40% of the unweds were still going to school when they became pregnant. Among these, 65% completed their studies, 33% dropped out of school and only 2% continued their studies after the child was born (the figures are 81%, 15% and 4% respectively for the ever married women);

- 81% of the unwed women had no professional training against 35% of the ever married women;

- 34% of the unwed women had a job when they became pregnant and nearly two-thirds of them had a job considered to be semi-skilled or unskilled (against 16% of the ever married women);

- job instability was more marked among the single women: over half of those who were working had held their job for less than a year (against about a third among the ever married women);

- 94% of the fathers of the children of unwed mothers were under 25 and 84% were single; their level of schooling, although slightly higher than the mothers, was nonetheless fairly low: 62% had not finished high school;

- most of the unwed primiparae had known the father of their child for quite some time: 23% for one to two years and 45% for at least two years;

- only 16% of these single women were living with the father at the time the child was born;

- only 22% of these single women had wished to become pregnant whereas 68% did not want to and 10% did not mind either way;

- the proportion of single women who did not wish to become pregnant was higher among those who were attending school (81%) than among those who worked (65%) or stayed at home (54%); it also varied according to age, decreasing from 76% among the under-17s to 65% among the 20-24-year-olds (32% among the over-25s);

- only 59% of those who did not wish to become pregnant said they had adequate knowledge of birth control methods (80% among those who wanted to become pregnant or who were indifferent and 94% among the ever married primiparae);

- the use of contraceptive methods among the unweds who did not wish to become pregnant varied with age: 79% of the under-17s had never used any method of contraception, 55% of the 17-19-year-olds and 36% of the 20-24-year-olds (30% among those aged 25 and over);

- at the time of the child's birth, 8% of the single mothers were living alone, 60% with their family, 29% in a common-law union, and 2% had married;

- 18 months after the birth of the child, more women were living alone (16%) or had married (17%), less were living with their family (43%) or in a common-law union (22%);

- at the time of the child's birth, 60% of the single mothers said they had financial problems (serious problems in 15% of cases). The economic situation seemed to improve somewhat with time: 18 months after the child's birth, 50% of the women said they had financial problems (6% with serious problems).

Although some of the findings reported above show that not all single mothers were alone at the birth of the child, that some of them wanted this pregnancy and that others had married, they nonetheless indicate that young single mothers are less well prepared - from an educational point of view, for example - to face the future.

Although economic problems are predictable, social prejudices towards the single mother seem to decrease with generations. Nearly half of young people aged 18-24 compared to less than a third of those aged 25 and over approve of births outside wedlock (Table 4.3).

Table 4.3: Percent (%) Distribution of Public Opinion on the Attitude of Women Wanting a Child as a Lone Parent without having a Stable Relationship with a Man

Opinion	**18-24**	25 +
Approve	46	32
Disapprove	39	49
Depends	13	16
Don't know	2	3
Total	100	100

Source: Gallup, 1982.

4.1.4 Cumulative fertility

Another way of approaching the question of young women's fertility is to examine the number of children they have born. These data come from the censuses and only concern ever married women (see note 11 on page 29).

As we might expect, a large proportion of young ever married women do not yet have any children: 65% of 15-19-year-olds and 54% of the 20-24-year-olds, in 1981 (Table 4.4). The striking aspect of these data is the increase in this proportion from 1961 to 1981 among both the 15-19-year-olds and their seniors. In 1981, slightly over a quarter of young ever married women had one child whereas 6% and 18% among the 15-19 and 20-24 age groups respectively had two or more.

Table 4.4: Percent (%) Distribution of Ever Married Women by Number of Children and Age, Canada, 1961, 1971 and 1981

Age and year		Number of children				
		0	1	2	3+	Total
15-19	1961	42.3	44.4	11.3	2.0	100.0
	1971	49.7	41.2	7.3	1.8	100.0
	1981	**64.9**	**28.9**	**5.1**	**1.1**	**100.0**
20-24	1961	26.2	34.7	24.9	14.2	100.0
	1971	42.0	33.5	18.5	6.0	100.0
	1981	**54.0**	**27.8**	**14.7**	**3.5**	**100.0**

Source: Statistics Canada, 1961 Census, Catalogue 98-507; 1971 Census, Bulletin 1.2-6; 1981 Census, Catalogue 92-906.

Table 4.5 gives a clearer picture of the distribution by number of children of women who already have at least one. Most of the young women who are already mothers have only one child; this can be seen in the 20-24 age group, but especially among the 15-19-year-olds. Nearly a third of the women aged 20-24 who have started a family have two children and 7.6% already have three or more. Between 1961 and 1981, the decline in fertility can be seen in the increased proportion of ever married women who are childless as well as in the smaller number of children among women who have started a family.

Table 4.5: Percent (%) Distribution of Ever Married Women Having at least One Child, by Number of Children and Age, Canada, 1961, 1971 and 1981

Age and year		Number of children			
		1	2	3+	Total
15-19	1961	76.9	19.6	3.5	100.0
	1971	81.9	14.5	3.6	100.0
	1981	**82.4**	**14.5**	**3.1**	**100.0**
20-24	1961	47.0	33.7	19.3	100.0
	1971	57.8	31.9	10.3	100.0
	1981	**60.4**	**32.0**	**7.6**	**100.0**

Source: Table 4.4.

In 1981, the ever married woman aged 15-19 had, on the average, 0.43 child (against 0.74 in 1961) and the woman aged 20-24, 0.69 child (against 1.33 in 1961). Here again there are marked provincial differences: (Table 4.6): Quebec leads with a very small number of children ever born, while Newfoundland, the territories and Prince Edward Island have a higher number (an average of about one child per young married women between ages 20-24).

Table 4.6: Mean Number of Children Ever Born to Ever Married Women, by Age of Women, Canada and Provinces, 1961, 1971 and 1981

Province	15-19			20-24		
	1961	1971	**1981**	1961	1971	**1981**
Newfoundland	0.92	0.83	0.92	1.83	1.41	1.11
Prince Edward Island	0.83	0.82	0.75	1.48	1.15	0.96
Nova Scotia	0.81	0.73	0.55	1.54	1.08	0.84
New Brunswick	0.91	0.68	0.61	1.61	1.15	0.90
Quebec	0.69	0.59	0.31	1.24	0.79	0.55
Ontario	0.72	0.61	0.43	1.26	0.89	0.68
Manitoba	0.64	0.66	0.57	1.31	0.91	0.79
Saskatchewan	0.80	0.71	0.57	1.39	1.03	0.93
Alberta	0.71	0.64	0.42	1.40	0.95	0.70
British Columbia	0.73	0.61	0.37	1.41	0.93	0.67
Yukon and Northwest Territories	0.73	0.72	0.75	1.66	1.27	1.00
CANADA	**0.74**	**0.63**	**0.43**	**1.33**	**0.91**	**0.69**

Source: Statistic Canada, 1981 Census, Catalogue 92-906.

4.1.5. Differential fertility

In this section, we examine the difference in fertility according to three socio-cultural characteristics: mother tongue, ethnic group and religion, and according to three socio-economic variables: education, former job and place of residence. The data analyzed come from the 1971 and 1981 Censuses. The indicators used are (1) the distribution of women ever married by number of children ever born and (2) the number of children ever born by women ever married (see note 11 on page 29).

Mother tongue[15]

Mother tongue is often a factor in behaviour differentiation and this is confirmed with regard to the total number of children born to young women. The fertility attained by francophones is the lowest (Table 4.7). At the national level, francophone women are those reporting the highest proportion of childless women ever married. They are also those who have the lowest average number of children per woman. This study is hardly surprising since we have already seen that Quebec, where most francophone women live, is characterized by very low fertility levels. Among francophone women outside Quebec, there is no very clear distinction: their level of fertility is sometimes higher, sometimes lower than that of young anglophone women (Table A.4.7).

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[15] Mother tongue is the first language spoken and still understood. For an analysis of the linguistic characteristics of Canadian youth, see Bourbeau (1984).

Table 4.7: Percent (%) Distribution of Young Women Ever Married by Number of Children, Mother Tongue and Age, Canada, 1981

Age and mother tongue		Number of children					Children per woman
		0	1	2	3+	Total	
15-19	Total	64.9	28.9	5.1	1.1	100.0	0.43
	English	62.8	30.6	5.6	1.0	100.0	0.45
	French	73.8	22.4	3.0	0.8	100.0	0.31
	Other	57.0	32.8	7.8	2.4	100.0	0.57
20-24	Total	54.0	27.8	14.7	3.5	100.0	0.69
	English	52.7	27.7	15.8	3.8	100.0	0.72
	French	59.6	27.1	11.3	2.0	100.0	0.57
	Other	45.2	31.8	17.4	5.6	100.0	0.86

Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census, Catalogue 92-906.

Generally speaking, anglophone women come half way between francophone women and women speaking other languages. They are obviously those closest to the national average because of the demographic weight of their group. Fertility is more precocious in the other-language groups: a higher proportion of women ever married already have a child. They have the highest average number of children. Indeed, the fertility of 15-19-year old women speaking other languages is very similar to that of young francophone women aged 20-24.

From 1971 to 1981, there was a decline in the fertility of both young anglophone and francophone women, thus following the national trend and that followed by their seniors. The decrease in fertility has been more marked, however, in young francophone women, thus widening the gap between the fertility levels of young francophone and anglophone women (Table A.4.8).

Ethnic group[16] and religion

Like mother tongue, ethnic group is often considered in Canada to be an important socio-cultural variable. Tables A.4.9 and A.4.10 show the differences in fertility among young women by ethnic group. Thus, the proportion of childless women varies, for the 15-19-year-olds, from 38.7% among the native women to 71.5% among Italian women and, for the 20-24-year-olds, from 22.8% among native women to 61.6% among the Ukrainians. The average number of children per woman varies, for the 15-19-year-olds, from 0.34 among young women giving their origin as "British and others" to 0.84 among native women and, for the 20-24-year-olds, from 0.57 among chinese women to 1.56 among native women.

Within the limits of this study, we cannot explain the reason for these differences in which not only cultural but also socio-economic factors play a part. It would be interesting to see to what extent the precocity or lateness of marriage among the various groups explains their reproductive behaviours. Unfortunately, these data were not available when the report was written.

One group stands out from the others: the native peoples. Several studies show that one of the characteristics of the native population is the early age of procreation and the high proportion of pregnancies among teenage girls (Bruyère, 1981).

Religion does not seem to be a major differentiating factor as regards fertility among young women: the differences between the groups are fairly small (Table A.4.11). Three groups are distinctive, however: young Jewish women have lower fertility and young women of the Mennonite, Hutterite and Mormon religions have high fertility rates.

Education

Education is usually considered to be a fertility-reducing factor. A high level of schooling is related to a certain number of characteristics which may contribute to decreased or delayed fertility: greater access to contraception, the desire for a career, etc. Among young women under 25, an important factor is certainly the fact that those who are pursuing higher studies are mostly still at school and have not yet started their family.

Table A.4.12 shows the considerable differences in fertility according to level of schooling. Among young women ever married aged 15-19, 65% of those not having completed Grade 9 are childless compared to 83% of those who have a non-university study certificate. A ratio of 1 to 4 can be seen in the average number of children of these two groups of women. The differences are even greater in the 20-24 age group.

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[16] Up until 1981, a person's ethnic origin was determined by the origin of the paternal ancestor on first coming to North America. In 1981, the reference to paternal ancestor was dropped and multiple replies accepted.

An increase in the level of schooling is therefore accompanied by a rise in the proportion of childless women and a drop in the average number of children per woman. The slope of the relationship, however, is hard to assess: do young women who become pregnant tend to drop out of school and therefore to have a lower level of schooling, or do young women who further their studies tend to have less children on account of their schooling?

Work experience

Numerous studies have examined the relationship which exists between a woman's work experience and her fertility. These studies generally conclude that labour force activity is a fertility-reducing factor for women. Among young women, this correlation is confirmed by Table A.4.13. Young women who have worked since January 1st, 1980 have a lower fertility rate than those who have not worked since that date. Among the former, those who are still in the labour force include the highest proportion of ever married childless women (79.2% for the 15-19-year-olds and 69.3% for the 20-24 age group) and the lowest average number of children per woman (0.25 for the 15-19-year-olds and 0.42 for those aged 20-24).

Among the young women who have not worked since January 1st, 1980, there seems to be no clear pattern between those who had already worked before that date and those who had never worked. In any case, their fertility is high: among the 20-24-year-olds, for example, only 15.5% of these women do not yet have a child, and they have 1.43 children on the average, which is very high compared to the mean of their age group (0.69 child). It should also be noted that 44.9% of them already have at least two children.

Residential area

The fertility of young women varies according to residential area and follows this commonly-observed trend: fertility declines with a move from a rural to an urban area and also declines as the size of the urban community increases (Table A.4.14). Thus, among the 20-24 age group, 62.8% of ever married women living in cities with a population of 500,000 and over are childless against 40.7% of those living in a rural, agricultural community; while only 2.1% of the former, compared to 7.1% of the latter, have three children or more. Ever married women aged 20-24 living in a city with a population of 500,000 have a lower average number of children per woman (0.52) than that of 15-19-year-old ever married women living in a rural, agricultural area.

Differences observed in fertility levels according to the variables studied here only permit a rather superficial analysis of the phenomenon of differential fertility: more complex tables are required for a more insightful analysis. Thus, can the low fertility rates of young Jewish women be explained by their religion or by the fact that their level of schooling is higher and that most of them live in cities - these two characteristics being correlated, as we have seen, with lower fertility.

4.2 Fertility of young families[17]

This section deals with the fertility attained by young families and considers all families in which one spouse is aged 15-24. When this report was written, the data available from the 1981 Census did not distinguish between husbands and wives under 25: these are included in the category "Under age 35". There are also certain problems of comparability and other technical difficulties with regard to the 1971 Census data. Only the 1976 data have therefore been examined here.

Up to this point, in this chapter, fertility has been measured in terms of number of live births or children ever born. This section concerning the fertility of young families takes a different look at the notion of fertility. We shall now look at the number of children living at home. Because their parents are so young (15-24 years), the children cannot have left home and the number of those living at home must therefore be equal to the number of children that ought to be included in a fertility study. Nonetheless, the variable used here probably only constitutes an indicative measurement of fertility: adoptions, custodial care by grand-parents or by the other spouse in the case of broken homes, children's deaths, etc., have not been taken into account.

Most young two-parent families have no children and nearly three out of ten only have one. By definition, lone parent families have at least one child. About seven one-parent families out of ten have only one child, 22.2% have two children and 6.1% at least three children.

Among mothers who are heads of lone parent families[18], single women are those with the least children, the majority of them (83.0%) having only one child (Table 4.9). It should be remembered that they represent a large proportion (40%) of single mothers. Married women whose spouse is absent as well as separated and divorced women have average fertility levels: 62.7% to 69.4% have one child at home; at least a quarter of them have two and a few have three or more. Widows have the most children: only 58.1% of them have only one child and over one in ten (11.4%) has at least three children.

We have seen that, among youth, marriage remains a more favourable environment for fertility than the unwed state (Section 4.1.3): this may explain the lower fertility of single women compared to the others. The greater fertility of widows may probably be partly explained by the fact that the disruption of their marriage has been sudden and involuntary and is not caused by misunderstandings like those that may modify the fertility of other women whose marriage has broken up.

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[17] A young family is either 1) a lone parent family of which the parent is aged 15-24, or 2) a two-parent family in which one of the spouses is aged 15-24.

[18] We have seen in Chapter 2 that very few young men are the heads of one-parent families. The relevant numbers are shown in the tables, when they are available, but are not analyzed here.

Table 4.8: Percent (%) Distribution of Young Families by Type of Family and Number of Children, Canada, 1976

Type of family		Number of children				
		0	1	2	3+	Total
Two-parent						
Total	.Husbands aged 15-24	60.4	28.5	9.5	1.6	100.0
	.Wives aged 15-24	53.3	29.8	14.1	2.8	100.0
With children	. Husbands aged 15-24	-	71.9	24.1	4.0	100.0
	. Wives aged 15-24	-	63.8	30.2	6.0	100.0
One-parent						
	Total	-	71.7	22.2	6.1	100.0
	Fathers aged 15-24	-	72.8	16.4	10.8	100.0
	Mothers aged 15-24	-	71.6	22.7	5.7	100.0

Source: Table A.4.15.

Table 4.9: Percent (%) Distribution of Young Lone-Parent Families by Sex, Marital Status of Parent and Number of Children, Canada, 1976

Sex of parent and number of children		Single	Married, spouse absent	Separated	Widowed	Divorced	Total
Female	1	83.0	69.4	62.7	58.1	65.0	71.6
	2	13.7	25.4	29.5	30.5	28.3	22.7
	3+	3.3	5.2	7.8	11.4	6.7	5.7
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Male	1	73.0	72.7	75.4	66.7	70.6	72.8
	2	13.3	18.6	17.6	13.3	26.5	16.4
	3+	13.7	8.7	7.0	20.0	2.9	10.8
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Table A.4.16.

The inverse correlation between education and fertility, noted in Section 4.1.5, is reconfirmed here (Table A.4.17 and A.4.18). Among two-parent families, the proportion of childless couples increases with years of schooling: among families in which the wife is aged 15-24, it increases from 29.0% among women who have completed Grade 9 to 76.7% among women who have attended university. This trend also appears in families in which the husband is young, but the differences are less marked. The number of children also decreases as the level of schooling of parents of lone parent families rises.

Table A.4.20 also shows the differences in number of children according to their parents' labour force activities. The comparison between persons in the labour force and those who are not indicates that the former have, on the average, less children than the latter. This applies to all types of families, but is more marked in the case of wives in two-parent families and less marked in the case of the husbands in such families. The mother's labour force activity thus has a greater impact on family size than that of the husband. Among youth in the labour force - and this applies to all types of families - family size is smaller, on the average, among the employed than among the unemployed.

4.3 Summary

The fertility of young women is a subject much in the news these days: especially that of teenage girls: an abundant literature testifies to widespread concern on this subject. Having a child very early in life can indeed cause difficulties for the psycho-social and socio-economic development of the young mother.

There has been a decrease in young women's fertility, however, over the last few years. The most striking feature of the present situation is the growing proportion of young unwed mothers: 65% of women aged 15-19 who gave birth to a child in 1983 are single; among the 20-24 age group, the proportion is 20%. While a number of these women do indeed live in a common-law union, they are nonetheless generally less well-off in socio-economic terms.

An analysis of fertility rates by marital status has revealed, however, that marriage remains a more favourable environment for fertility than the unwed state. The proportion of single women who become mothers is in fact quite small.

Among young women ever married - those who are married and those who have been married (plus those living in a common-law union), the number of children even born decreased between 1961 and 1981. In 1981, the 15-19-year-olds had an average of 0.43 child (against 0.74 in 1961) and those aged 20-24, 0.68 child (1.33 in 1961). This decrease in the number of children ever born can be seen both by an increase in the importance of childless women and by a decrease in the number of children for those who do have children.

The heterogeneity of youth is obvious when we examine the number of children ever born of women ever married according to certain characteristics: the number of children ever born varies according to province or area of residence, mother tongue, ethnic group, level of schooling and work experience.

It would have been interesting to examine certain aspects of the young women's lives related to their fertility: the age at which they became sexually active; the frequency of their sexual relations; their knowledge and use of contraceptive methods, etc. While it was impossible, within the context of this study, for us to analyze these elements, it should be pointed out that, although data on these aspects is almost inexistent at the national level, there is an abundant literature on the subject for more limited geographical regions.

We have devoted the following chapter to abortion, however, since it is a well-known fact that an important number of young pregnant women decide to terminate their pregnancy.

5. ABORTION

5.1 Preliminary remarks

This chapter deals with therapeutic abortions authorized under Article 18 of the 1969 federal Abortion Act. Briefly, this law permits the termination of a pregnancy only in an accredited or approved hospital, and only if the hospital's therapeutic abortion committee states that the continuation of the pregnancy "would or would be likely to" endanger the life or health of the pregnant mother.

Thus, the data presented here only concern abortions practised in the approved hospitals that have reported their figures to Statistics Canada. The statistics therefore do not include: 1) self-induced abortions, 2) abortions classified as "spontaneous" and "other," 3) abortions performed outside hospitals - in clinics, for instance, as in Quebec, 4) abortions obtained by Canadian women abroad and, finally, 5) abortions performed in hospitals but which have not been classified as such.

The total number of abortions included in these five categories is unknown. We do have some information concerning Canadian women who have obtained an abortion in the United States. If these figures are to be believed, less and less Canadian women are apparently going to the States to obtain an abortion: the 1971 statistics report 6,309 legal abortions for Canadian women in the States against 1,644 in 1980. There has been a slight increase since 1980: in 1982, 3,156 Canadian women obtained an abortion in the States. These figures published by Statistics Canada do not concord with the findings of an unofficial (sic) survey carried out in 1983 by the Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada (PPFC), which estimated that in 1981 a possible 10,000 Canadian women went to the United States to terminate their pregnancy.

Quebec has a second available source of information on abortion: the Régie de l'assurance-maladie posts non-therapeutic abortions practised at their clinics or offices by physicians. The number of abortions posted by the Régie is far higher than the Statistics Canada figures: for 1982, the former indicates a total of 15,385 abortions against 9,671 for Statistics Canada (Dumas 1985 and Messier 1984).

The fact that we do not have a figure for the total number of abortions obtained by Canadian women is not the only problem encountered when studying abortion. What proportion of therapeutic abortions is due to medical causes? To what extent does the change in abortion rates reflect a change in women's behaviour patterns? Does it reflect an increase in the number of accredited hospitals, changes in the interpretation of the law by the hospital committees, or changes in attitudes on the part of the medical profession, etc.? These are all questions which the statistics analyzed in this study are unable to answer.

Finally, it should be noted that Statistics Canada has been publishing annually, since 1972, statistics concerning therapeutic abortions but only began to provide age-specific information in 1974. The most recent data are those for 1982.

5.2 Some international comparisons

International comparisons are not easy to make and may sometimes prove misleading. In the present case, it would be advisable to examine the definition of abortion used in the different countries, the legal and technical methods available to obtain an abortion as well as the methods of collecting abortion statistics. Without this information, it is almost impossible to interpret the results, but we can nonetheless make some comments on the subject.

Table 5.1 presents some statistics relating to therapeutic or legal abortion in certain selected countries. Abortion rates for women of child- bearing age vary from 8.3^{o}/oo in Scotland to 35.3^{o}/oo in Hungary[19]. Among the countries listed in Table 5.1, Canada's relatively low abortion rates (11.1^{o}/oo in 1982) ranks it second from the bottom. The Canadian rate is similar to that of England and Wales, but far behind the American rate (29.3^{o}/oo) which is indeed more than double that of Canada.

Table 5.1: Legal Abortion Rates Per 1,000 Females 15-44 Years, Some International Comparisons, 1982

Country	1982 Rate (^{o}/oo) 15-44 years	Year	Rate (^{o}/oo)		% compared to all abortions		
			20	20-24	20	20-24	Under 25
Canada	11.1	1981	16.3	18.0	28.3	32.3	60.6
		1980	16.9	18.2	29.7	31.8	61.5
U.S.A. 1980	29.3	1980	44.4	51.4	29.6	35.4	65.0
England and Wales	12.6	1981	17.7	19.5	27.3	26.8	54.1
Czechoslovakia	32.1	1980	10.8	37.2	6.1	20.2	26.3
Denmark	20.7	1980	20.9	30.1	17.8	24.0	41.8
Hungary	35.3	1980	26.5	39.0	10.3	18.6	28.9
Scotland	8.3	1980	12.1	13.1	29.7	29.0	58.7
Sweden	19.4	1981	20.9	27.3	18.1	22.3	40.4

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-211.

In Canada, young women are more affected by abortion than are their seniors. This remark also apparently applies to other countries since abortion rates for young women are always higher than those for women as a whole, except in the case of Czechoslovakian and Hungarian women under 20. However, in Canada, young women are clearly far more affected by abortion than their elders than in other countries, except the United States. Indeed, 65.0% of abortions practised in the States and 61.5% in Canada involve young women under 25, whereas this percentage is only 26.3%, for instance, in Czechoslovakia.

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[19] Rate per 1,000 females, hence the use of the symbol ^{o}/oo.

We shall see further on that abortion rates have increased in Canada. This is not an exceptional situation since the same trend can be seen in other countries (Wadhera & Nair, 1980 and Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada, 1983).

5.3 Extent and trend of the phenomenon

5.3.1 Overview

In 1982, 66,254 therapeutic abortions were obtained in Canada by Canadian women, including **39,517** by young women under 25[20]. The number of therapeutic abortions has thus grown considerably since 1970, when only 11,152 abortions were reported. Since 1979, the phenomenon seems to have levelled off although a slight increase occurred in 1982.

Since 1974, the number of abortions has also increased among young women (Table 5.2): it rose by 36% in eight years among the 15-24-year-olds, although a recent decrease has been noted among the under-20s.

Table 5.2: Numbers of Therapeutic Abortions by Age of Women, Canada, 1974-1982

Year	13-44	13-14	15-17	18-19	20-24
1974	48,136	573	7,232	7,277	14,070
1975	49,311	597	7,437	7,413	14,354
1976	54,478	665	7,895	8,173	16,151
1977	57,564	670	8,313	8,742	17,443
1978	62,290	599	8,571	9,806	19,256
1979	65,043	647	8,860	10,250	20,520
1980	65,751	559	8,660	10,277	20,926
1981	65,053	548	7,983	9,875	21,027
1982	**66,254**	**516**	**7,335**	**9,906**	**21,760**

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-211.

Young women are more affected by abortion than are their seniors. Table 5.3 shows, in fact, that since 1974, the proportion of abortions obtained by 15-24-year-old women represents about 60% of abortions as a whole.

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[20] Including 516 abortions for girls under 15 years of age.

Table 5.3: Percentage share of Therapeutic Abortions among Young Women, by Age, Canada, 1974-1982

Year	13-44	13-14	15-17	18-19	20-24	15-24
1974	100.0	1.2	15.0	15.1	29.2	59.3
1975	100.0	1.2	15.1	15.0	29.1	59.2
1976	100.0	1.2	14.5	15.0	29.6	59.1
1977	100.0	1.2	14.4	15.2	30.3	59.9
1978	100.0	1.0	13.8	15.7	30.9	60.4
1979	100.0	1.0	13.6	15.8	31.5	60.9
1980	100.0	0.9	13.2	15.6	31.8	60.6
1981	100.0	0.8	12.3	15.2	32.3	59.8
1982	100.0	0.8	11.1	15.0	32.8	58.9

Source: Table 5.2.

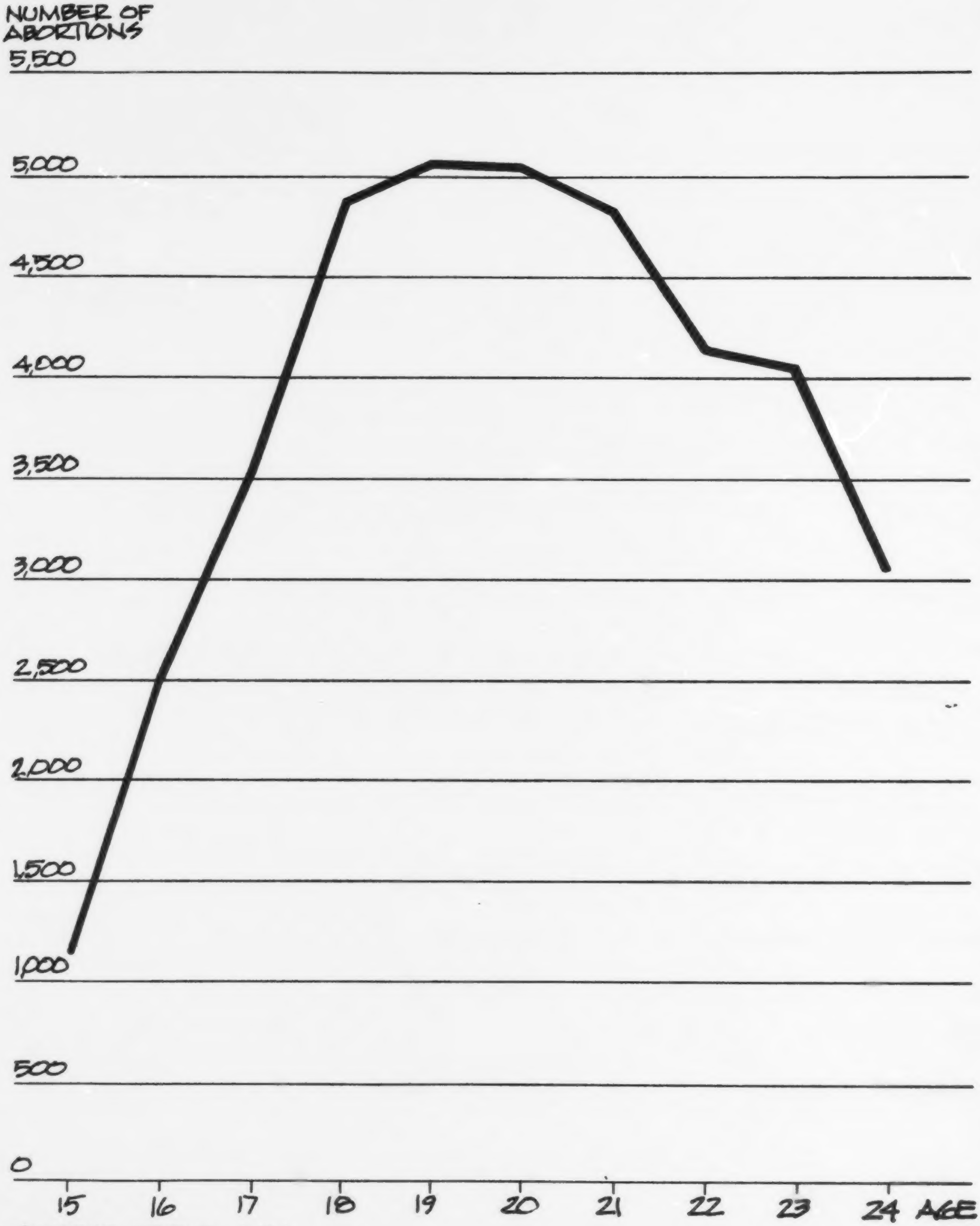
Figure 5.1 shows that the number of abortions shoots up between the ages of 15 and 18, peaks at 18-21 and slightly declines with age until age 25. As regards the number of abortions, young 18-21-year-old women are thus apparently most affected. But numbers do not give an adequate explanation of the phenomenon. The rates give a better relative picture since they relate the number of abortions to the population concerned. Figure 5.2 shows the change in abortion rates by age group between 1974 and 1982 and highlights three elements:

- the increase in the incidence of abortions to peak at age 18-19, followed by a steady decrease with advancing age;
- the upward trend in abortion, mainly due to its marked increase among 18-24-year old women;
- the recent levelling off of rates for all age groups.

Table 5.4 gives the abortion rates among the young women shown in Figure 5.2. In 1982, the abortion rate among 18-19-year-old women reached 21.1°/oo, followed by that of women aged 20-24 (18.5°/oo), women aged 15-17 (11.7°/oo) and, finally, that of girls under 15 (1.4°/oo). It should be noted that only the last rate is lower than the rate for all women aged 13-44 (10.4°/oo).

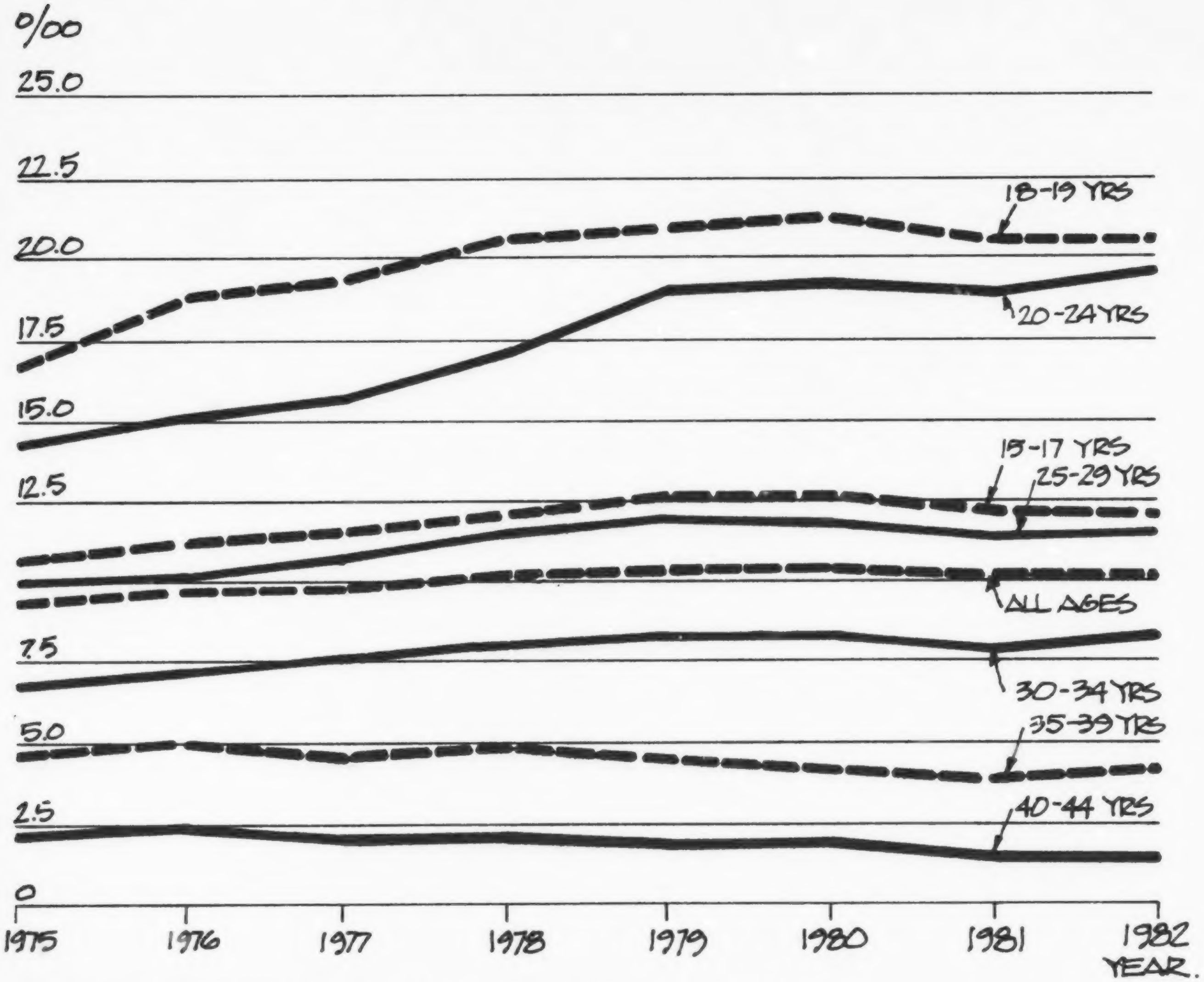
As shown by Figure 5.2, the rates among youth have increased. The most marked increase is that of rates among women aged 20-24 (31%). It will also be noted that a slight drop seems to have occurred recently among the 15-17 and 18-19 age groups, whereas rates are fairly stable among the 13-14-year olds.

FIGURE 5.1: NUMBER OF ABORTIONS AMONG YOUTH BY AGE, CANADA, 1982



SOURCE: TABLE A.5.1

FIGURE 5.2 ABORTION RATES (0/00) BY AGE, CANADA, 1975 TO 1982



SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA, CATALOGUE 82-211
1975 TO 1982

Table 5.4: Therapeutic Abortion Rates Per 1,000 Females, by Age of Women, Canada, 1974-1982

Year	13-44	13-14	15-17	18-19	20-24
1974	8.8	1.2	10.8	16.6	14.1
1975	8.8	1.3	10.9	16.7	13.8
1976	9.5	1.4	11.3	18.2	15.1
1977	9.5	1.5	11.8	19.2	15.9
1978	10.4	1.3	12.2	21.1	17.2
1979	10.7	1.5	12.8	21.7	18.1
1980	10.7	1.4	12.7	21.8	18.2
1981	10.4	1.4	12.0	21.8	18.0
1982	**10.4**	**1.4**	**11.7**	**21.1**	**18.5**

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-211.

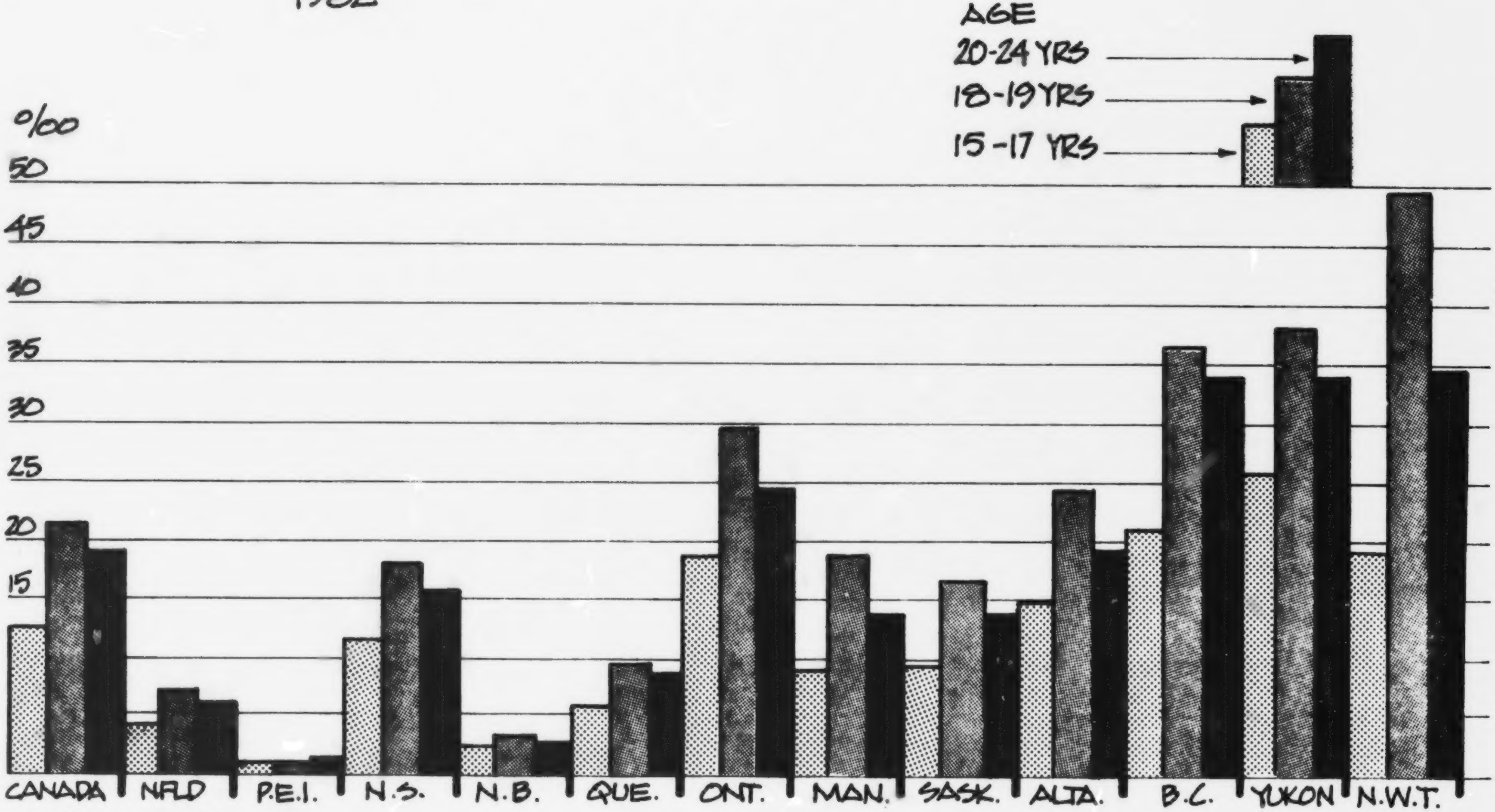
5.3.2 Regional disparities

Abortion differs in frequency from one region of Canada to another. Firstly, as regards distribution, there is a great difference between the provinces. Ontario is the province which reported the greatest number of abortions in 1982: 31,290, including 18,834 among young women aged 15-24. At the other end of the scale came Prince Edward Island with 26 abortions, of which 16 were performed on young women (Table A.5.2). Since these numbers are strongly influenced by the size of the population in each province, a study of the rates will again prove more revealing. Table 5.5 and Figure 5.3 show youth abortion rates for 1982 according to province. Two remarks: 1) everywhere, apart from Prince Edward Island (where the numbers are small), the same pattern applies: the highest rates are those of young women aged 18-19, followed by the 20-24-year-olds, and lastly, the 15-17-year-olds, 2) there is a marked increase in abortion rates from Eastern to Western Canada, with the exception of Nova Scotia and Ontario where the rates differ from those of the neighbouring provinces.

The lowest rates are those of Prince Edward Island where abortion is apparently very infrequent whereas abortion rates exceed 20⁰/oo in Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. It should be noted that only 75 and 159 abortions respectively were recorded among young women in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories: the high abortion rates are due to the small population of these two regions. Nonetheless, they reveal a high incidence of the phenomenon.

We have already stated that at the national level, about 60% of therapeutic abortions are performed on young women under 25. This proportion varies from one province to the other. Thus, in Quebec, youth abortions are proportionately less numerous among the total number of abortions practised in the province: 51.1% of abortions are obtained by young women, compared to over 70% in the Northwest Territories and in Saskatchewan (Table A.5.3).

FIGURE 5.3 ABORTION RATES (0/00) AMONG YOUTH BY AGE, CANADA AND PROVINCES
1982



SOURCE: TABLE 5.5

Table 5.5: Number of Therapeutic Abortions Per 1,000 Females, by Age of Woman, Canada and Provinces, 1982

Province	15-44	15-17	18-19	15-19	20-24
Newfoundland	3.4	4.8	5.9	5.2	5.2
Prince Edward Island	0.9	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.7
Nova Scotia	8.4	11.8	17.5	14.2	15.1
New Brunswick	1.5	2.3	2.7	2.5	2.6
Quebec	6.0	5.1	9.3	6.9	9.2
Ontario	14.9	17.9	29.1	22.6	24.8
Manitoba	7.3	8.1	16.8	11.8	13.0
Saskatchewan	7.5	9.8	16.2	12.6	13.3
Alberta	11.2	13.7	24.3	18.4	18.6
British Columbia	18.8	21.4	36.2	27.8	33.5
Yukon	18.8	26.7	37.5	31.0	33.8
Northwest Territories	18.6	18.0	49.0	30.4	34.6
CANADA	**11.1**	**12.5**	**21.1**	**16.2**	**18.5**

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-211.

The recent evolution of youth abortion rates also varies within the different provinces. Table A.5.4 shows, for example, that the rates of certain provinces have declined since 1979 (Newfoundland, British Columbia), whereas, in other provinces, they have shown a marked increase (Manitoba, Quebec, Nova Scotia).

Access to abortion varies from one province to another. On January 1, 1981, there were 267 hospitals in Canada with an abortion committee (against 143 in 1970). These hospitals are located in each province and territory, but their distribution does not always correspond to that of the population, hence the inequality between provinces as regards access to abortion.

Before examining the regional differences in access to abortion, one point must be clarified. The statistics analyzed up to this point concerned abortions obtained by the women residing in a given province and not the total number of abortions practised in that province. Of the 65,053 abortions practised in 1981, 611 were performed in a province other than the woman's province of residence (see Table A.5.5). The number of women having obtained an abortion in a province other than their own varies from one province to another. There is apparently no connection, however, between the number of women going elsewhere to obtain an abortion and the incidence of abortion in their home province or the "women/hospital" index discussed in the following paragraphs.

Table A.5.6 presents the provincial distribution of hospitals that have an abortion committee. Ontario is the best supplied province since it has 105 hospitals, followed by British Columbia (58 hospitals). A calculation of the number of women per hospital with an abortion committee gives a crude index of access to abortion. Calculated for the total population of women of childbearing age (ages 15-44), the index varies from 5,700 women per hospital in the Northwest Territories to 51,900 women per hospital in Quebec. The

Yukon and the Northwest Territories seem to be the best supplied since there are between 2,200 and 2,500 women aged 15-24 per hospital. Quebec is situated at the other extreme with 20,000 young women per hospital.

There is thus a marked provincial difference, in theory, in young women's access to abortion. But this factor does not explain the different provincial levels of abortion: there is no direct correlation between varying ease of access to abortion (measured by the "women/hospital" index) and the varying high levels of abortion rates of the different provinces. Access to abortion must apparently be measured in a different way since the existence of hospitals with abortion committees in a given province does not necessarily mean that they actually operate. Moreover, the interpretation of the Abortion Act seems to vary from one committee to another. It should be noted in this regard that "only 20% of Canadian hospitals have a therapeutic abortion committee and, in 1980, 76% of all abortions were performed in only 17% of Canada's hospitals" (PPFC, 1983)

5.3.3 Impact on fertility

In 1982, for all women of child-bearing age, 17.8 abortions were recorded for 100 births. Among young women, this figure was much higher but declined with advancing age: among women aged 13-14, 180 abortions for 100 births were recorded, 82 among the 15-17-year olds, 51 among the 18-19- year-olds and, lastly, 20 among the 10-24-year-olds (Table 5.6).

Table 5.6: Therapeutic Abortions per 100 Live Births
by Age of Women, Canada,*, 1974-1983

Year	13-44	13-14	15-17	18-19	20-24
1974	13.7	182.7	56.8	28.3	12.6
1975	13.7	160.5	56.2	28.8	12.4
1976	15.1	185.6	62.7	32.5	13.9
1977	15.9	201.5	68.6	36.1	15.0
1978	17.4	179.0	76.8	42.9	16.9
1979	17.8	204.6	87.3	46.9	18.0
1980	17.7	202.2	86.2	48.3	18.4
1981	17.5	200.4	86.7	49.2	18.9
1982	**17.8**	**179.7**	**81.9**	**50.7**	**19.7**

* Does not include Newfoundland, except for the 13-44 category.
Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-211.

The number of abortions rose between 1974 and 1982 compared to the number of births: whereas, for example, 28.3 abortions per 100 births were recorded among women aged 18-19, in 1974, there were 50.7 in 1982. While this trend is hardly surprising due to the increase in abortion rates and the decline in fertility rates, it nonetheless reveals the growing importance of abortion as a factor in decreased fertility.

The impact of abortion on young women's fertility varies from one province to another: it is low in Prince Edward Island among the population of women under 25 and in New Brunswick among 20-24-year-old women, whereas it is strong among the 15-19-year-old women of Ontario and British Columbia where almost as many abortions are recorded as births (Table 5.7).

Table 5.7: Therapeutic Abortions per 100 Live Births by Age of Women, Canada and Provinces[1], 1982

Province	15-44	15-19	20-24
Prince Edward Island	1,4	4,3	1,5
Nova Scotia	13,7	39,6	14,9
New Brunswick	2,3	7,0	2,2
Quebec	10,7	45,2	10,9
Ontario	25,1	95,5	28,2
Manitoba	10,7	29,8	12,4
Saskatchewan	9,2	25,1	9,6
Alberta	14,7	41,2	16,4
British Columbia	29,4	99,2	33,3
Yukon	23,6	63,3	28,0
Northwest Territories	16,0	26,3	18,8
CANADA[2]	**18,1**	**61,6**	**19,7**

[1] Data for Newfoundland not available.
[2] Excluding Newfoundland.
Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-211.

5.4 Characteristics of young women having obtained an abortion

Preliminary remark: Marked differences will be noted between the two age groups, 15-19 and 20-24. These difference are partly due to the actual characteristics of the population of these two age groups: for example, there is less likelihood for the 15-19-year-olds to have already been married or pregnant than for the 20-24-year-olds. A calculation of the rates would certainly be more revealing, but we have had to limit ourselves here to study the proportions.

Most of the young women who obtained an abortion in 1982 were single: 96% among the 15-19-year-olds and 77% among the 20-24-year-olds (Table A.5.7). Only 2% and 13% respectively of the women aged 15-19 and 20-24 who obtained an abortion were married. The others were separated, divorced or living in a common-law union. The extent to which single women living in a common-law union actually reported themselves as single or as living in a common-law union is not known.

Since 1976, there has been a marked increase in the proportion of single women among young women obtaining abortions, while the proportion of married women has declined. This trend, which is quite weak among the 15-19-year-olds but more marked among those aged 20-24, may merely reflect the decline in the marriage rate observed among youth (Chapter 3).

Table A.5.8 gives the distribution of young women having obtained an abortion by the number of previous deliveries or abortions (spontaneous or provoked). It should be noted that the official statistics may very well under-estimate the number of repeat abortions, since women may fear a refusal on the part of the committee if they admit their "repeats."

Almost all the women aged 15-19 have never had a previous birth or abortion. It is therefore their first experience of a pregnancy. Their youth and a shorter period of risk of becoming pregnant probably explain this situation. When the distribution of these young women by marital status is examined (Table A.5.9), we see that almost half of the ever-married women who obtained an abortion in 1982, have already had a delivery prior to their abortion (the numbers are small, however).

The situation is different among the 20-24-year olds: 28.1% of those having obtained an abortion in 1982 had already had one previous delivery and 19.0% had already undergone an induced abortion. Distribution by marital status shows that while only 17.4% of single women had already given birth to a child before obtaining an abortion in 1982, nearly two thirds of the ever-married had already had one.

The distribution of abortions by number of previous spontaneous abortions remained stable between 1976 and 1982. This is not the case for the number of deliveries and induced abortions. Among the 15-19-year-olds having obtained an abortion, the proportion of those never having had a delivery fluctuated slightly but may be considered as stable whereas the proportion of those having already had an induced abortion increased slightly from 5.2% in 1976 to 8.2% in 1982. Among women aged 20-24, the trends are a little more marked: the proportion of women never having had a delivery increased from 68.2% to 71.9% between 1976 and 1982, whereas the proportion of women having already had an induced abortion increased from 12.4% in 1976 to 19.0% in 1982.

These data reveal an increasing number of repeat abortions. However, "the experience of other nations suggest that in general as abortion services have become more available, there has been a reported increase in the number of second or repeat abortions" (Badgley, p. 354). American studies indeed report that "the total number of women who have repeat abortions tends to increase as the pool of women who have had a first abortion grows" (Badgley, p.354)

Repeated abortions are an increasing cause of anxiety, especially because of their possible harmful consequences on the physical and mental health of the woman and on her future fertility. It is also feared that certain couples may use abortion as a "contraceptive measure."

Surveys conducted as part of the research of the Committee on the Operation of the Abortion Law have revealed differences in the normal frequency of sexual relations between women who have already had an abortion and those who have not. On the whole, those who have already had an abortion are more active sexually than other women, the weekly frequency of sexual relations being 1.6 and 1.2 respectively. This difference seems mainly to characterize young women aged 15-23. Thus, the weekly frequency of sexual relations is 2.00 for women aged 15-17 who have already had an abortion compared to 0.12 for those of the same age who have not had one.

The Committee's research attempted to obtain a better understanding of the connection between lack of knowledge, non-utilization of contraception and abortion. It was observed that 85% of the women surveyed who sought an abortion had previous experience of contraception. For example, 50% of the women aged 18-19 who sought an abortion had already taken the pill. "It was factors other than their lack of knowledge or exposure to contraceptives that were involved in accounting for their unwanted pregnancies" (Badgley, p. 340). Unfortunately, we have very little information concerning these young women. We do know, however, that the risks of accidental conception are greater during the period when one method of contraception has been stopped and a new method is adopted; we also know that young women are more likely to change methods. This may probably explain a certain number of unplanned pregnancies among young women. The proportion of young women who were using a contraceptive method at the time of an unplanned conception is not known. We do know, however, that a large proportion of young women were not using contraceptives because, since they were not very active sexually, they were not anticipating sexual relations. The problem here would therefore be not so much a lack of information as a lack of "foresight." It must nonetheless be pointed out that the failure of a method or incorrect utilization have also led some young women to an abortion.

5.5 A question of opinion

In 1976 - seven years after the law amending the criminal code with respect to abortion came into effect, less than 40% of the population aged 15 and over knew that, under certain circumstances, an abortion could be legally obtained (Table A.5.10). Young adults aged 20-29 were more aware of the law than their elders; there was no difference among youth according to sex. About half the population, and more among the 15-19-year olds, were unaware of the abortion services in their area.

About 40% of youth aged 15-19 and a quarter of those aged 20-29 had no opinion to express concerning the Abortion Act. If these are excluded, we note that young men are less satisfied with the Act than are young women or the male population as a whole, judging it to be too restrictive. The women aged 15-19 are those who mostly consider it satisfactory. The degree of satisfaction is far lower among women aged 20-29 whose opinion is very similar to that of the young men.

Approval regarding abortion varies considerably according to the reason invoked: it decreases from about 70% when the pregnancy endangers the mother's physical health to less than 20% when it is a question of preventing an illegitimate birth (Table A.5.11). Medical questions, rape and incest are the most commonly accepted grounds (over 40%) and few people say they are totally opposed to abortion. Youth aged 15-19 seem to approve abortion slightly less, no matter what the reason, than their seniors aged 20-29. It is interesting to note that young men are more favourable to abortion on demand than young women. Again, there is little difference of opinion between youth and the population as a whole.

These results can be related to other more recent findings, without, however, being directly comparable. The results of a 1982 Gallup poll suggest a growing tolerance in the population with regard to abortion (Table A.5.12). Indeed, this survey shows that 90% of the population approves abortion when the child is likely to be physically handicapped. However, less than a quarter of the population surveyed approves abortion in cases where the mother is not married or where a married couple does not want to have any more children. In 1982, there was once again very little difference between the opinions of the 18-24-year-olds and those of their elders.

In 1983, over half of young people aged 15-24 think that abortion on demand is something that society cannot refuse to women; 32% of youth do not agree with this idea and 15% hesitate. Young people aged 20-24 are again slightly more tolerant of abortion than their elders. The women are less undecided than the men: a larger proportion say they approve, but an equally large proportion say they disapprove (Table A.5.13).

Approval of abortion on demand seems to increase from east to west of the country, with a slight decrease in the Prairies. This trend conforms quite closely to the incidence of abortion among youth in the different provinces.

These overall results may seem surprising, for two reasons: 1) they reveal no marked difference in attitudes to abortion between the young and their elders and, 2) they seem to show that, while most youth approve the right to abortion, far less approve of abortion itself, especially when questions of health are not at stake.

The data from the surveys studied here cannot be directly compared but the similarity in their findings seems to indicate a trend towards greater approval of abortion.

5.6 Summary

Abortion among young women, as among their elders, has increased considerably since the early '70s, but seems to have levelled off since 1979. Abortion rates are higher among the young and these women are strongly represented among the total population of women who obtain an abortion. These young women are mostly unwed and, for most of them, it is their first pregnancy.

The psycho-social consequences of an abortion on a young woman cannot be evaluated from the statistics analyzed in this paper (see on this subject Tousignant 1985). However, these consequences, which are often considered to be harmful, should be compared with the psychosocial costs involved in bearing an unplanned or unwanted child and, in certain cases, of putting it up for adoption.

The medical consequences are a little better documented. Indeed, young women are known to delay obtaining an abortion longer than their elders: 19% of women aged 15-19 who obtained an abortion in 1982 did so before the ninth week of gestation; this proportion rises to 25% among the 20-24-year-olds, but remains lower than that of the over 25s (over 30%). The rate of complications following an abortion is higher among the young: 3.7% among the under-15s, 3.3% among the 15-19-year-olds, 2.4% among those aged 20-24, whereas among their elders, the rate fluctuates around 1.7%.

The longer time taken by young women to seek an abortion is probably due, according to Millar (1982), to their inexperience in recognizing the symptoms of a pregnancy, by the difficulty or refusal to accept the situation, by their ignorance regarding sources of help and by their hesitation to confide in adults.

6. CONCLUSION

The family environment is undergoing change. A number of these changes are experienced by youth in both their family lifestyle and in their behaviours with regard to marriage, fertility and abortion.

Most young people live in a family context. The largest group is that of young people still living with their parents. The latter are not immune from change: divorce, one-parent families, a smaller number of siblings due to a lower birth rate, working mothers are all examples of changes experienced by youth as children. The difficult economic situation of recent years seems to have caused young people to live longer with their parents.

Youth today also differs from previous generations in that they no longer leave their parents' home only in order to get married. The situation is now more varied: many live alone, some are heads of a lone parent family and others live in a common-law union. For the under-25s, living together, whether preceded or not by a marriage, has lost some importance.

Youth behaviours regarding reproduction are also changing. On the one hand, young women participate in the phenomenon of decreased fertility but, on the other, among the young women who have a child, a growing proportion are single. Fertility, like sexual relations, is becoming increasingly dissociated from marriage. Moreover abortion, for more and more young women, is becoming a solution to an unwanted pregnancy - more so among today's young people than among those of yesterday and more so among the young than among their elders.

On the other hand, opinion polls reveal that in their attitudes, youth do not seem to contest the family, marriage, or children and that they in fact differ very little from their elders. To what extent are the different behaviours they adopt signs of temporary adjustment or indicators of real change which will last into later life? We shall have to wait a few years before being able to answer these questions.

Now is the time, however to ask ourselves about the consequences of these changes experienced by the young as regards their psycho-social development, their socio-economic future, and their integration into Canadian society. This paper has merely permitted a preliminary approach to the question of young people and their families.

STATISTICAL APPENDIX

Table A.1.1: Youth population, Canada, 1961-1981

Year	Number aged 15-24
1961	2,616,205
1971	4,003,750
1981	**4,658,695**

Source: Statistics Canada, 1961, 1971 and 1981 Censuses.

Table A.1.2: Age structure of population 15-24 years, Canada, 1961-1981

Age	1961	1971	1981
15	12.2	11.2	9.1
16	11.5	11.1	9.9
17	10.9	10.6	10.2
18	10.3	10.2	10.3
19	9.9	9.7	10.1
(15-19)	**(54.8)**	**(52.8)**	**(49.6)**
20	9.5	9.5	10.3
21	9.1	9.3	10.2
22	8.9	9.2	10.0
23	8.8	9.4	10.0
24	8.9	9.8	9.9
(20-24)	**(45.2)**	**(47.2)**	**(50.4)**
15-24	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: See table A.1.1.

Table A.2.1: Youth 15-24 years living in collective dwellings by type of dwelling, Canada, 1981

Type of Dwelling	Total	Male	Female
Total	**54,030**	**37,450**	**16,585**
- Institutional Collective Dwellings	21,175	14,655	6,520
. Total Inmates	19,245	13,605	5,640
. Total Non-Inmates[1]	1,935	1,055	885
Hospitals and Other Related Institutions	10,655	6,105	4,555
. Inmates	10,025	5,810	4,215
. Non-Inmates	630	290	340
General, Psychiatric Hospitals and Hospitals for the Handicapped	8,530	4,925	3,605
. Inmates	8,175	4,775	3,415
. Non-Inmates	355	170	185
Nursing, Chronic Care and Old Age Homes	2,125	1,175	950
. Inmates	1,850	1,055	795
. Non-Inmates	280	125	150
Orphanages	2,165	1,265	905
Penal and Correctional Institutions[2]	7,650	6,910	735
. Inmates	7,370	6,705	670
. Non-Inmates	275	210	70
Religious Institutions	700	375	330
- Service Collective Dwellings	13,890	7,855	6,025
. Hotels, Motels, Tourist Homes	4,335	2,770	1,565
. Lodging and Rooming-Houses	4,230	2,620	1,615
. Other[3]	5,325	2,470	2,850
- Work Camps	1,360	1,205	155
- Military Camps[4]	13,965	12,025	1,940
- Hutterite Colonies	3,645	1,705	1,940

[1] Inmates are presented only for institutional collective dwellings as shown, excluding religious institutions and orphanages.

[2] Includes juvenile delinquent homes and jails.

[3] Includes school residences, YM/YWCA's and other types such as hunting and fishing camps, etc. Note that this "Other" category refers exclusively to service collective dwellings.

[4] Includes naval vessels and Merchant and Coast Guard vessels.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census, catalogue 92-903.

Table A.2.2: Youth living in private household by family situation and sex, Canada and provinces, 1981

Family situation	CANADA		Nfld		P.E.I.		Nova Scotia	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Primary families								
In couple								
15-24	301,875	564,030	5,595	11,605	1,305	2,445	10,320	18,350
Lone Parents								
15-24	1,375	37,330	20	420	--	200	50	1,410
Children 15-24	1,580,645	1 287,890	43,090	35,255	8,910	7,325	57,335	47,145
15-17	639,070	600,590	18,700	17,645	3,730	3,550	23,650	22,430
18-24	941,575	687,300	24,390	17,610	5,180	3,775	33,685	24,715
Secondary families								
In couple								
15-24	18,670	32,280	1,460	240	90	165	920	1,465
Lone Parents								
15-24	1,155	8,195	55	395	5	55	55	420
Children 15-24	31,625	25,915	985	765	165	130	1,375	1,050
15-17	12,295	11,740	460	410	75	65	600	530
18-24	19,330	14,175	525	355	90	65	775	520
Outside family								
15-24	352,395	314,130	4,325	5,360	980	1,165	9,395	9,485
15-19	87,360	91,455	1,460	2,090	300	390	2,675	2,790
20-24	265,035	222,675	2,865	3,270	680	775	6,720	6,695
Living Alone								
15-24	100,270	100,820	530	475	210	240	2,195	2,400
15-19	14,420	14,420	50	50	20	30	175	250
20-24	86,400	86,400	480	435	190	210	2,020	2,150
TOTAL	2,287,740	2,267,770	55,530	56,010	11,455	11,485	79,450	79,325

Continued on next page.

Table A.2.2 (cont.)

Family situation	New Brunswick		Quebec		Ontario		Manitoba	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Primary families								
In couple								
15-24	8,585	15,860	80,505	153,525	93,545	176,820	12,800	22,605
Lone Parents								
15-24	45	1,615	325	9,305	455	12,620	55	1,655
Children 15-24	49,625	39,775	459,215	376,090	567,140	470,120	61,110	48,850
15-17	20,530	19,225	172,235	163,520	227,095	213,010	25,855	24,665
18-24	29,095	20,550	286,980	212,570	340,045	257,110	35,255	24,185
Secondary families								
In couple								
15-24	830	1,275	2,745	4,645	6,465	10,930	755	1,150
Lone Parents 15-24	35	370	190	1,180	370	2,785	65	545
Children 15-24	895	765	7,115	5,870	11,875	9,840	1,500	1,210
15-17	365	390	2,705	2,635	4,445	4,280	635	565
18-24	530	375	4,410	3,235	7,430	5,560	865	645
Outside family								
15-24	6,725	6,780	74,005	67,705	104,665	98,705	15,925	15,720
15-19	2,035	2,375	19,645	19,595	24,260	26,100	4,230	5,020
20-24	4,690	4,405	54,360	48,110	80,405	72,605	11,695	10,700
Living Alone								
15-24	1,430	1,425	26,205	25,235	30,920	32,725	5,105	5,770
15-19	115	185	3,145	3,730	2,870	3,885	680	1,020
20-24	1,315	1,240	23,060	21,505	28,050	28,840	4,425	4,750
TOTAL	66,740	66,440	624,100	618,320	784,515	781,820	92,210	92,095

Continued on next page.

Table A.2.2 (end)

Family situation	Saskatchewan		Alberta		British Columbia		Yukon		Northwest Territories	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Primary families										
In couple 15-24	14,605	25,785	41,375	72,735	32,245	62,065	345	700	650	1,195
Lone Parents 15-24	55	1,890	185	4,120	170	3,995	--	45	10	50
Children 15-24	56,110	42,860	123,355	94,995	150,880	122,500	1,110	830	2,760	2,125
15-17	26,065	24,330	54,725	50,235	64,585	60,320	565	475	1,335	1,165
18-24	30,045	18,530	68,630	44,760	86,295	62,180	545	355	1,425	960
Secondary families										
In couple 15-24	620	955	2,115	3,160	2,490	4,045	35	55	145	230
Lone Parents 15-24	85	385	130	875	150	1,120	--	20	10	50
Children 15-24	920	770	2,675	2,135	3,945	3,245	35	35	130	110
15-17	450	455	1,080	980	1,410	1,355	15	15	60	65
18-24	470	315	1,595	1,155	2,535	1,890	20	10	70	45
Outside family										
15-24	17,285	16,125	68,205	48,990	49,440	42,850	575	480	880	810
15-19	4,940	5,685	15,650	14,790	11,705	12,100	180	175	290	340
20-24	12,345	10,440	52,555	34,140	37,735	30,750	395	305	590	470
Living Alone										
15-24	5,380	5,770	13,535	11,955	14,405	14,585	125	85	230	170
15-19	770	1,220	1,570	2,010	1,575	2,020	20	15	30	25
20-24	4,610	4,550	11,965	9,945	12,830	12,565	105	70	200	145
TOTAL	89,680	88,770	238,040	226,950	239,320	239,820	2,100	2,165	4,585	4,570

Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census, catalogue 92-905.

Table A.2.3: Number of youth living at home by age and sex, Canada and provinces, 1981

Province and sex		15-17	18-19	15-19	20-24
Newfoundland	M	19,160	10,290	29,455	14,620
	F	18,055	8,690	26,745	9,275
	T	37,220	18,980	56,200	23,900
Prince Edward Island	M	3,805	2,310	6,110	2,960
	F	3,620	1,930	5,545	1,910
	T	7,420	4,235	11,660	4,875
Nova Scotia	M	24,245	14,865	39,110	19,595
	F	22,960	12,775	35,740	12,465
	T	47,205	27,645	74,850	32,060
New-Brunswick	M	20,900	12,520	33,415	17,110
	F	19,620	10,555	30,175	10,370
	T	40,515	23,075	63,590	27,475
Quebec	M	174,940	111,950	286,890	179,440
	F	166,155	97,545	263,700	118,260
	T	341,095	209,495	550,590	297,700
Ontario	M	231,540	142,910	374,450	204,565
	F	217,290	124,225	341,520	138,445
	T	448,830	267,140	715,965	343,005
Manitoba	M	26,495	15,490	41,985	20,630
	F	25,230	12,605	37,840	12,225
	T	51,725	28,100	79,825	32,855
Saskatchewan	M	26,515	14,235	40,750	16,285
	F	24,785	10,935	35,720	7,910
	T	51,300	25,170	76,470	24,195
Alberta	M	55,805	31,815	87,620	38,410
	F	51,210	24,490	75,705	21,420
	T	107,015	56,310	163,325	59,830
British Columbia	M	65,995	39,370	105,360	49,470
	F	61,675	32,325	94,005	31,750
	T	127,675	71,690	199,360	81,215
Yukon	M	575	275	845	290
	F	490	190	680	175
	T	1,065	465	1,520	465
Northwest Territories	M	1,395	680	2,080	810
	F	1,225	510	1,740	490
	T	2,625	1,190	3,820	1,305
CANADA	**M**	**651,360**	**396,720**	**1,048,080**	**564,185**
	F	**612,325**	**336,775**	**949,105**	**364,695**
	T	**1,263,685**	**733,490**	**1,997,180**	**928,880**

Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census, catalogue 92-905.

Table A.2.4: Proportion (%) of youth living at home, by age and sex, Canada and provinces, 1981

Province and sex		15-17	18-19	15-19	20-24	**15-24**
Newfoundland	M	93.8	88.6	92.0	58.4	77.2
	F	92.6	75.7	86.3	35.6	63.2
	T	93.2	82.2	89.2	46.8	70.2
Prince Edward Island	M	94.7	88.9	92.4	57.3	77.0
	F	94.2	78.8	88.0	35.5	63.8
	T	94.4	83.9	90.3	46.2	70.5
Nova Scotia	M	92.7	83.5	89.0	49.9	70.5
	F	92.4	75.4	85.5	31.8	59.6
	T	92.6	79.6	87.3	40.9	65.1
New-Brunswick	M	93.4	86.1	90.5	52.9	72.9
	F	92.4	75.6	85.7	32.2	60.2
	T	92.9	80.9	88.2	42.6	66.6
Quebec	M	93.8	86.1	90.7	55.7	73.0
	F	93.6	77.3	86.5	36.8	61.1
	T	93.7	81.8	88.8	46.3	67.1
Ontario	M	94.2	85.3	90.6	52.1	71.8
	F	93.2	76.5	86.4	34.9	60.6
	T	93.7	81.0	88.5	43.4	66.2
Manitoba	M	91.5	78.4	86.2	43.8	65.3
	F	90.2	64.5	79.7	26.1	53.1
	T	90.9	71.5	83.0	35.0	59.2
Saskatchewan	M	91.2	74.2	84.4	36.3	61.2
	F	89.4	57.7	76.5	17.9	48.1
	T	90.3	66.0	80.5	27.2	54.7
Alberta	M	89.9	66.8	79.9	28.0	51.1
	F	87.6	52.9	72.3	16.8	41.9
	T	88.8	60.0	76.2	22.6	46.6
British Columbia	M	92.1	77.8	86.2	39.6	63.6
	F	90.2	66.4	80.3	25.1	51.6
	T	91.2	72.2	83.3	32.3	57.2
Yukon	M	79.9	59.8	71.9	25.7	49.2
	F	79.0	44.2	65.4	14.1	37.5
	T	79.4	52.8	68.6	19.6	43.4
Northwest Territories	M	86.1	69.7	80.2	33.2	57.4
	F	80.1	54.6	65.9	21.4	47.0
	T	83.3	62.1	75.5	27.7	52.4
CANADA	**M**	**93.1**	**82.2**	**91.9**	**48.0**	**68.5**
	F	**92.1**	**71.9**	**83.8**	**31.2**	**57.1**
	T	**92.6**	**77.1**	**86.3**	**39.6**	**62.8**

Source: Calculated by us from table A.2.3 and 1981 Census, catalogue 92-901.

Table A.2.5: Number and percent distribution (%) of youth living at home by type of family, Canada and provinces, 1981

Province	Number				Distribution (%)			
	Both parents	Lone parent		Total	Both parents	Lone parent		Total
		Father	Mother			Father	Mother	
Newfoundland	69,540	2,535	8,020	80,095	86.8	3.2	10.0	100.0
Prince Edward Island	14,080	490	1,960	16,530	85.2	3.0	11.8	100.0
Nova Scotia	89,420	3,625	13,860	106,905	83.6	3.4	13.0	100.0
New-Brunswick	76,915	2,990	11,160	91,065	84.5	3.3	12.2	100.0
Quebec	703,165	28,170	116,960	848,295	82.9	3.3	13.8	100.0
Ontario	894,285	33,695	130,995	1,058,975	84.4	3.2	12.4	100.0
Manitoba	94,625	3,760	14,345	112,730	84.0	3.3	12.7	100.0
Saskatchewan	86,965	2,980	10,725	100,670	86.4	3.0	10.6	100.0
Alberta	188,485	7,585	27,080	223,150	84.5	3.4	12.1	100.0
British Columbia	232,865	10,230	37,480	280,575	83.0	3.6	13.4	100.0
Yukon	1,570	145	270	1,985	79.1	7.3	13.6	100.0
Northwest Territories	4,185	295	645	5,125	81.7	5.7	12.6	100.0
CANADA	**2,456,100**	**96,460**	**373,500**	**2,926,060**	**83.9**	**3.3**	**12.8**	**100.0**

Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census, unpublished data.

Table A.2.6: Percent distribution (%) of youth living as a couple by type of family and sex, Canada and provinces, 1981

Province	Primary family			Secondary family			Total		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Newfoundland	79.3	84.0	82.4	20.7	16.0	17.6	100.0	100.0	100.0
Prince Edward Island	93.5	93.7	93.6	6.5	6.3	6.4	100.0	100.0	100.0
Nova Scotia	91.8	92.6	93.3	8.2	7.4	7.7	100.0	100.0	100.0
New-Brunswick	91.2	92.6	92.1	8.8	7.4	7.9	100.0	100.0	100.0
Quebec	96.7	97.1	96.9	3.3	2.9	3.1	100.0	100.0	100.0
Ontario	93.5	94.2	94.0	6.5	5.8	6.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Manitoba	94.4	95.2	94.9	5.6	4.8	5.1	100.0	100.0	100.0
Saskatchewan	95.9	96.4	96.2	4.1	3.6	3.8	100.0	100.0	100.0
Alberta	95.1	95.8	95.6	4.9	4.2	4.4	100.0	100.0	100.0
British Columbia	92.8	93.9	93.5	7.2	6.1	6.5	100.0	100.0	100.0
Yukon	90.8	92.7	92.0	9.2	7.3	8.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Northwest Territories	81.8	83.9	83.1	18.2	16.1	16.9	100.0	100.0	100.0
CANADA	**94.2**	**94.9**	**94.6**	**5.8**	**5.1**	**5.4**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Source: Table A.2.2.

Table A.2.7: Number and percent distribution (%) of young lone parents by sex, marital status and type of family, Canada, 1981

Type of family and sex	Total	Single	Separated	Widowed	Divorced
Primary					
Male	1,375	640	595	30	110
Female	37,330	22,420	10,800	510	3,600
Secondary					
Male	1,155	275	765	35	80
Female	8,195	2,135	4,900	145	1,015
Total					
Male	2,530	915	1,360	65	190
Female	45,525	24,555	15 700	655	4,615
Primary					
Male	**100.0**	46.5	43.3	2.2	8.0
Female	**100.0**	60.1	28.9	1.4	9.6
Secondary					
Male	**100.0**	23.8	66.3	3.0	6.9
Female	**100.0**	26.0	59.8	1.8	12.4
Total					
Male	**100.0**	36.2	53.7	2.6	7.5
Female	**100.0**	53.9	34.5	1.5	10.1
Primary					
Male	54.3	69.9	43.8	46.2	57.9
Female	82.0	91.3	68.8	77.9	78.0
Secondary					
Male	45.7	30.1	56.2	53.8	42.1
Female	18.0	8.7	31.2	22.1	22.0
Total					
Male	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Female	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census, catalogue 92-905.

Table A.2.8: Number and percent distribution (%) of young lone parents by type of family, Canada and provinces, 1981

Province	Number		Distribution (%)	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
Newfoundland	435	455	48.9	51.1
Prince Edward Island	205	60	77.4	22.6
Nova Scotia	1,465	475	75.5	24.5
New-Brunswick	1,665	410	80.2	19.8
Quebec	9,635	1,370	87.6	12.4
Ontario	13,075	3,155	80.6	19.4
Manitoba	1,710	610	73.7	26.3
Saskatchewan	1,940	470	80.5	19.5
Alberta	4,305	1,005	81.1	18.9
British Columbia	4,170	1,270	76.7	23.3
Yukon	50	20	71.4	28.6
Northwest Territories	60	55	52.2	47.8
CANADA	**38,705**	**9,350**	**80.5**	**19.5**

Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census, catalogue 92-905.

Table A.2.9: Percent distribution (%) of young female lone parents by age, Canada and provinces, 1981

Province	15-17	18-19	20-24	15-24
Newfoundland	1.5	9.9	88.6	100.0
Prince Edward Island	2.1	10.4	87.5	100.0
Nova Scotia	1.8	11.2	87.0	100.0
New-Brunswick	2.6	14.8	82.6	100.0
Quebec	2.1	10.9	87.0	100.0
Ontario	2.1	10.8	87.1	100.0
Manitoba	1.2	12.1	86.7	100.0
Saskatchewan	2.1	13.2	84.7	100.0
Alberta	2.3	11.1	86.6	100.0
British Columbia	1.6	8.5	89.9	100.0
Yukon	-	18.2	81.8	100.0
Northwest Territories	-	7.7	92.3	100.0
CANADA	**2.1**	**10.9**	**87.0**	**100.0**

Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census, unpublished data.

Table A.2.10: Percent distribution (% of young female lone parents by age and marital status, Canada, 1971, 1976 and 1981

Age and year	Single	Widowed	Divorced	Separated	Total
15-17					
1971	79.2	3.8	1.7	15.3	100.0
1976	75.5	4.1	3.6	16.8	100.0
1981	88.0	1.1	1.7	9.2	100.0
18-19					
1971	58.9	2.6	3.9	34.6	100.0
1976	67,5	2.0	3.8	26.7	100.0
1981	80.5	0.6	2.2	16.7	100.0
20-24					
1971	29.9	4.5	12.3	53.3	100.0
1976	38.7	3.1	14.5	43.7	100.0
1981	53.7	1.6	12.1	32.6	100.0
15-24					
1971	**35.1**	**4.2**	**11.0**	**49.7**	**100.0**
1976	**43.4**	**3.0**	**12.0**	**40.8**	**100.0**
1981	**57.4**	**1.5**	**10.8**	**30.3**	**100.0**

Source: Statistics Canada, 1971, 1976 and 1981 Censuses, unpublished data.

Table A.2.11: Youth living outside of a family, by living arrangements, sex and marital status, Canada, 1981

Living arrangement and age	Total	Male				Female			
		T	S	M	W	T	S	M	W
Total									
15-19	178,815	87,360	83,575	3,285	300	91,455	86,080	4,560	540
20-24	487,715	265,040	246,680	15,050	350	222,675	200,235	17,245	735
15-24	666,530	352,400	330,255	18,335	650	314,130	286,315	21,805	1,275
-Family household									
15-19	86,250	43,645	40,710	2,620	210	42,605	38,500	3,595	360
20-24	97,120	55,990	46,735	7,795	185	41,125	30,630	8,480	365
15-24	183,370	99,635	87,445	10,415	395	83,730	69,130	12,075	725
-Non-family household									
15-19	92,570	43,720	42,870	665	90	48,855	47,580	965	180
20-24	390,595	209,045	199,950	7,250	165	181,545	169,600	8,770	370
15-24	483,165	252,765	242,820	7,915	255	230,400	217,180	9,735	550
Alone									
15-19	25,445	11,025	10,885	100	20	14,420	14,130	195	65
20-24	175,645	89,250	85,165	3,250	75	86,400	80,440	4,285	180
15-24	201,090	100,275	96,050	3,350	95	100,820	94,570	4,480	245
With others									
15-19	67,130	32,700	31,985	570	80	34,430	33,450	770	115
20-24	214,945	119,795	114,780	4,000	90	95,150	89,160	4,480	185
15-24	282,075	152,495	146,765	4,570	170	129,580	122,610	5,250	300

S= Single (never married)
M= Married, including separated
W= Widowed
T= Total, including divorced

Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census, catalogue 92-905.

Table A.2.12: Youth living alone by age and sex, Canada and provinces, 1981

Age and sex	CANADA	Newfound-land	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Quebec	Ontario	Man.	Sask.	Alta	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T.
15-19 T	25,445	95	45	425	300	6,875	6,755	1,700	1,985	3,580	3,595	35	45
M	11,020	50	20	175	115	3,145	2,870	680	770	1 570	1,575	20	30
F	14,420	50	30	250	185	3,730	3,885	1,020	1,220	2,010	2,020	15	25
15-17 T	2,675	5	5	50	30	765	820	160	165	320	330	5	5
M	1,205	-	-	20	15	375	355	60	75	145	140	10	-
F	1,470	5	5	25	20	390	465	100	90	175	190	5	5
18-19 T	22,775	85	40	375	275	6,105	5,935	1,545	1,815	3,260	3,265	30	40
M	9,815	50	15	155	100	2,770	2,515	615	690	1,430	1,435	15	25
F	12,950	40	25	215	170	3,335	3,420	925	1,125	1,830	1,830	15	20
20-24 T	175,645	910	405	4,170	2,550	44,570	56,885	9,175	9,155	21,910	25,390	170	345
M	89,250	480	190	2,020	1,315	23,060	28,050	4,425	4,610	11,965	12,830	105	200
F	86,400	435	210	2,150	1,240	21,505	28,840	4,750	4,550	9,945	12,565	70	145
15-24 T	201,090	1,005	450	4,595	2,850	51,445	63,640	10,875	11,140	25,490	28,985	205	390
M	100,270	530	210	2,195	1,430	26,205	30,920	5,105	5,380	13,535	14,405	125	230
F	100,820	475	240	2,400	1,425	25,235	32,725	5,770	5,770	11,955	14,585	85	170

Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census, catalogue 92-905.

Table A.2.13: Proportion (%) of persons stating that the following social changes are "a good thing", by age, Canada, 1982

Change	**18–24**	25+
More emphasis on family life	**85**	**92**
Greater emphasis on the development of the individual	82	84
Greater respect for authority	66	79
Less emphasis on money and material possessions	63	66
More emphasis on full equality for women	62	63
A simple and more natural lifestyle	60	85
Greater emphasis on the free enterprise system	57	70
More emphasis on the development of technology	57	60
Decrease in the importance of work in our lives	29	25
Decrease governmental involvement with the poor	19	22

Source: Gallup 1982.

Table A.2.14: Percent (%) distribution of youth by degree of importance accorded to various goals or aspirations, 1983

Goal or aspiration	Very important	Moderately important	Slightly important	Not important at all
Having a job	88	9	2	1
Being successful at whatever you do	86	12	2	0
Having a stable and enriching family life	**82**	**14**	3	1
Furthering your education	62	24	8	6
Having leisure time	61	31	7	1
Having a lot of friends	57	35	7	1
Owning a home	52	35	11	2
Travelling	38	42	16	4
Making a lot of money	34	50	11	5
Doing volunteer work	18	44	27	11
Getting involved in politics	10	22	28	40

Source: Goldfarb, 1983.

Table A.2.15: Percent (%) distribution of the population on opinion about parents' responsibilities to their children, by age, 1982

Statement	**18-24**	25+
Parents' duty is to do their best for their children even at the expense of their own well-being	62	64
Parents have a life of their own and should not be asked to sacrifice their own well-being for the sake of the children	27	22
Neither	7	11
Don't know	4	3
Total	100	100

Source: Gallup 1982.

Table A.2.16: Percent (%) distribution of the population according to two statements concerning love and respect for parents, by age, 1982

Statements	18-24	25+
Regardless of what the qualities and faults of one's parents, one must always love and respect them	67	68
One does not have the duty to respect and love parents who have not earned it by their behaviour and attitudes	30	29
Don't know	3	3
Total	100	100

Source: Gallup 1982.

Table A.2.17: Relationship with parent when ego was a child, by age, 1982

Relationship	18-24 years			25 and over		
	Father and mother	Mother and ego	Father and ego	Father and mother	Mother and ego	Father and ego
Very close	53	54	42	48	50	40
Quite close	27	33	32	32	32	31
Not very close	11	8	16	12	12	19
Not at all close	7	4	9	4	3	7
Don't know	2	1	1	4	3	3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Gallup, 1982.

Table A.3.1: Percent (%) distribution of youth **15-19** years by sex and marital status, Canada and provinces, 1976 and 1981

Province	1976						1981					
	Male			Female			Male			Female		
	S	M	Others	S	M	Others	S	M	Others	S	M	Others
Newfoundland	97.9	2.1	-	90.1	9.8	0.1	98.8	1.2	-	94.5	5.4	0.1
Prince Edward Island	97.6	2.3	0.1	92.6	7.3	0.1	98.9	1.1	-	95.7	4.2	0.1
Nova Scotia	97.8	2.1	0.1	91.4	8.5	0.1	98.6	1.4	-	94.1	5.8	0.1
New Brunswick	97.4	2.5	0.1	90.1	9.8	0.1	98.7	1.2	0.1	94.2	5.7	0.1
Quebec	98.5	1.4	0.1	93.8	6.1	0.1	98.8	1.1	0.1	94.5	5.4	0.1
Ontario	97.9	2.0	0.1	91.6	8.3	0.1	98.6	1.4	-	94.2	5.7	0.1
Manitoba	97.7	2.2	0.1	90.8	9.1	0.1	98.2	1.8	-	92.8	7.1	0.1
Saskatchewan	97.5	2.4	0.1	90.0	9.9	0.1	97.9	2.1	-	91.4	8.6	-
Alberta	97.4	2.5	0.1	89.9	10.0	0.1	97.3	2.7	-	88.6	11.3	0.1
British Columbia	97.9	2.0	0.1	90.9	9.0	0.1	98.1	1.8	0.1	91.9	8.0	0.1
Yukon	96.5	3.5	-	88.0	11.5	0.5	96.6	3.4	-	88.9	11.1	-
Northwest Territories	96.9	3.1	-	85.7	14.3	-	97.5	2.5	-	87.2	12.6	0.2
CANADA	**98.0**	**1.9**	**0.1**	**91.8**	**8.1**	**0.1**	**98.4**	**1.5**	**0.1**	**93.3**	**6.6**	**0.1**

S = Single;
M = Married;
Others = Widowed, Divorced, Separated.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1976 and 1981 Censuses.

Table A.3.2: Percent (%) distribution of youth 20-24 years, by sex and marital status, Canada and provinces, 1976 and 1981

Province	1976						1981					
	Male			Female			Male			Female		
	S	M	Others	S	M	Others	S	M	Others	S	M	Others
Newfoundland	61.4	38.4	0.2	38.7	60.8	0.5	71.1	28.7	0.2	49.2	50.3	0.5
Prince Edward Island	67.4	32.4	0.2	46.1	53.2	0.7	72.1	27.7	0.2	52.2	47.4	0.4
Nova Scotia	66.2	33.5	0.3	44.2	54.8	1.0	70.2	29.4	0.4	50.6	48.3	1.1
New Brunswick	63.0	36.8	0.2	40.2	59.1	0.7	69.9	29.8	0.3	48.0	51.0	1.0
Quebec	71.0	28.8	0.2	49.6	49.8	0.6	73.8	26.0	0.2	53.1	46.1	0.8
Ontario	67.9	31.8	0.3	45.5	53.7	0.8	73.5	26.2	0.3	53.6	45.6	0.8
Manitoba	65.5	34.2	0.3	43.6	55.5	0.9	70.5	29.2	0.3	50.6	48.6	0.8
Saskatchewan	61.9	37.8	0.3	39.2	60.1	0.7	65.7	34.0	0.3	43.7	55.4	0.9
Alberta	64.4	35.0	0.6	40.6	57.8	1.6	67.4	32.0	0.6	44.2	54.4	1.4
British Columbia	67.2	32.4	0.4	43.1	55.7	1.2	71.0	28.6	0.4	49.6	49.4	1.0
Yukon	65.7	33.1	1.2	38.1	61.0	0.9	65.9	33.6	0.5	42.7	56.9	0.4
Northwest Territories	65.0	35.0	-	40.1	58.9	1.0	65.4	34.2	0.4	44.1	55.3	0.6
CANADA	**67.7**	**32.0**	**0.3**	**45.3**	**53.8**	**0.9**	**71.9**	**27.8**	**0.3**	**51.1**	**48.0**	**0.9**

S = Single;
M = Married;
Others = Widowed, Divorced, Separated.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1976 and 1981 Censuses.

Table A.3.3: Proportion (%) of single youth by age and sex, Canada, 1981

Age	Male	Female
15-19	**98.4**	**93.4**
15	99.7	99.5
16	99.7	98.6
17	99.4	96.5
18	98.2	90.9
19	95.3	82.2
20-24	**71.9**	**51.1**
20	90.0	71.4
21	82.0	60.5
22	72.4	49.9
23	61.8	40.4
24	52.2	32.7

Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census.

Table A.3.4: Marriage rates (°/oo) among the **15-19** age group, by sex, Canada and provinces, 1977 to 1983

Male

Province	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Newfoundland	12.4	11.7	9.7	8.3	8.2	7.7	7.0
Prince Edward Island	12.1	13.1	10.7	10.7	6.2	6.0	9.0
Nova Scotia	11.0	10.7	8.5	7.3	6.5	5.4	4.7
New-Brunswick	13.2	11.1	9.4	8.4	6.6	6.0	5.0
Quebec	5.0	4.1	3.9	3.2	2.5	2.1	1.8
Ontario	10.2	8.7	7.8	6.9	6.1	5.7	4.5
Manitoba	12.2	10.9	9.0	8.8	8.2	7.4	5.8
Saskatchewan	15.9	14.5	11.6	11.4	8.8	8.0	6.4
Alberta	13.2	12.0	10.9	10.9	9.2	7.9	6.1
British Columbia	8.8	7.7	7.1	6.7	6.0	4.7	4.0
Yukon	10.8	9.2	3.3	5.0	8.5	5.8	1.8
Northwest Territories	9.2	3.5	4.1	7.1	4.6	4.1	6.1
CANADA	**9.4**	**8.2**	**7.3**	**6.6**	**5.7**	**5.1**	**4.1**

Female

Province	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Newfoundland	42.9	38.3	34.1	29.3	27.3	24.5	25.0
Prince Edward Island	39.8	41.2	30.9	27.5	24.3	21.1	25.7
Nova Scotia	36.0	35.8	33.2	27.2	26.3	21.9	20.5
New Brunswick	42.7	39.2	36.6	34.0	27.9	25.0	23.2
Quebec	27.0	24.0	22.4	20.4	16.4	14.2	12.0
Ontario	37.2	32.8	29.6	27.1	25.0	23.3	20.6
Manitoba	40.9	39.0	34.2	33.3	30.8	28.8	26.7
Saskatchewan	50.0	46.1	43.5	41.3	35.9	35.3	31.8
Alberta	47.5	42.4	41.9	43.4	37.6	35.3	29.6
British Columbia	35.1	32.2	29.6	29.1	27.9	24.6	21.6
Yukon	29.1	30.9	24.2	25.5	34.6	26.0	28.9
Northwest Territories	33.6	18.3	27.6	26.9	21.5	18.8	21.5
CANADA	**36.0**	**32.4**	**30.0**	**28.1**	**25.1**	**22.9**	**20.3**

Source: Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics.

Table A.3.5: Marriage rates (°/oo) among the **20-24** age group, by sex, Canada and provinces, 1977 to 1983

Male

Province	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Newfoundland	82.4	76.7	72.4	70.6	72.0	73.1	67.2
Prince Edward Island	84.7	82.9	76.5	73.6	74.3	73.8	72.9
Nova Scotia	75.1	75.5	78.0	71.0	74.0	65.9	60.0
New Brunswick	79.3	79.0	75.5	73.7	73.7	69.7	66.5
Quebec	76.3	70.3	68.1	63.7	56.0	49.5	43.6
Ontario	77.5	73.5	71.0	68.9	69.9	67.5	60.8
Manitoba	80.5	79.0	73.3	71.9	72.6	70.7	66.6
Saskatchewan	84.2	81.5	80.4	78.9	76.0	77.2	72.1
Alberta	79.9	76.7	76.3	77.0	64.4	61.1	55.8
British Columbia	71.4	70.3	66.1	66.6	67.4	60.0	55.3
Yukon	45.0	54.2	44.6	46.2	56.6	46.7	64.0
Northwest Territories	42.7	40.0	47.4	43.0	37.8	34.6	37.4
CANADA	**77.2**	**73.4**	**71.1**	**68.7**	**65.7**	**61.6**	**56.0**

Female

Province	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Newfoundland	72.9	71.6	68.8	74.9	74.3	76.6	72.4
Prince Edward Island	80.8	81.5	84.4	85.8	76.9	82.6	86.4
Nova Scotia	76.3	77.1	80.9	78.7	80.5	76.6	73.0
New Brunswick	72.8	75.9	74.2	72.7	78.3	74.5	78.4
Quebec	80.7	76.8	77.3	74.6	66.2	61.5	56.4
Ontario	77.0	76.4	77.4	78.2	80.4	80.7	76.3
Manitoba	76.9	78.3	75.5	77.8	80.2	80.8	77.6
Saskatchewan	77.3	76.8	77.5	80.0	78.6	80.7	78.8
Alberta	80.2	80.7	80.1	84.0	76.4	75.0	70.3
British Columbia	76.5	75.7	76.9	79.2	80.8	76.5	74.0
Yukon	70.8	69.2	53.8	53.1	62.9	63.8	71.8
Northwest Territories	42.2	39.1	49.1	43.5	48.6	47.1	43.2
CANADA	**78.0**	**76.7**	**77.3**	**77.6**	**75.7**	**74.0**	**70.0**

Source: Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics.

Table A.3.6: Percent (%) distribution of married youth by age of spouse, age and sex, Canada, 1961, 1971, 1978 to 1983

Sex of youth	Age of spouse	Age of youth							
		Under 20 years							
		1961	1971	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Male	< 20	83.5	81.8	76.6	74.8	74.7	72.5	71.2	67.6
	20–24	15.6	17.4	21.5	23.5	23.2	25.2	26.2	29.0
	25–29	0.8	0.6	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.4
	30+	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	1.0
Female	< 20	18.0	21.4	20.2	18.9	18.5	17.2	16.5	14.5
	20–24	64.0	66.6	66.0	66.9	67.3	67.5	67.1	67.9
	25–29	14.7	10.1	11.3	11.6	11.7	12.6	13.1	14.5
	30+	3.3	1.9	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.7	3.3	3.1

Sex of youth	Age of spouse	Age of youth							
		20–24 years							
		1961	1971	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Male	< 20	43.0	34.5	30.1	28.5	26.9	24.8	23.0	21.5
	20–24	51.6	60.1	62.5	63.8	65.0	66.5	67.6	68.0
	25–29	4.7	4.8	6.3	6.6	6.9	7.5	8.1	9.0
	30+	0.7	0.6	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.5
Female	< 20	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.6
	20–24	57.2	65.4	60.3	59.7	59.1	57.9	56.8	55.1
	25–29	31.1	25.7	29.1	29.7	30.4	31.5	32.4	33.8
	30+	9.2	6.3	8.1	8.2	8.4	8.7	9.1	9.5

Source: Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics.

Table A.3.7: Number of divorces by age at time of divorce, Canada, 1983

Age of wife	Age of husband				
	≤ 20	20–24	25+	Not specified	TOTAL
∠ 20	10	140	63	3	216
20–24	9	2,054	4,760	80	6,903
25 +	3	518	59,185	765	60,471
Not specified	–	18	942	17	977
TOTAL	22	2,730	64,950	865	68,567

Source: Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics.

Table A.3.8: Percent (%) distribution by age group and sex of party seeking divorce, Canada, mean 1969–1979

Age	Sex			TOTAL
	Male	Female	Total	
∠ 25	**18.8**	**81.2**	**100.0**	**13.6**
25–29	30.3	69.7	100.0	23.1
30–34	34.7	65.3	100.0	18.7
35–39	35.9	64.1	100.0	13.6
40–44	37.4	62.6	100.0	10.7
45–49	40.2	59.8	100.0	8.4
50+	52.7	47.3	100.0	11.9
TOTAL	34.4	65.6	100.0	100.0

Source: McKie and al, p.135.

Table A.3.9: Crude divorce rate (for 100,000) among youth **15-19** years, Canada and provinces, 1977 to 1983

Male

Province	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Newfoundland	-	-	3.1	-	-	-	-
Prince Edward Island	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nova Scotia	4.5	4.4	8.8	6.7	6.8	-	-
New Brunswick	2.6	2.6	-	2.6	8.1	-	2.9
Quebec	1.0	0.3	0.9	1.2	0.6	1.0	1.4
Ontario	3.3	2.3	1.6	2.3	2.2	1.0	2.1
Manitoba	-	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.1	4.2	4.3
Saskatchewan	2.0	4.0	2.0	6.1	4.1	4.3	4.4
Alberta	7.9	11.5	8.5	8.4	8.2	17.5	3.8
British Columbia	4.9	3.2	1.6	2.4	0.8	-	0.9
Yukon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northwest Territories	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CANADA	**2.9**	**2.7**	**2.3**	**2.8**	**2.5**	**2.6**	**2.0**

Female

Province	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Newfoundland	3.3	6.5	6.5	12.9	-	3.2	3.2
Prince Edward Island	-	15.4	-	-	15.9	-	-
Nova Scotia	35.1	53.4	27.6	30.2	50.3	47.3	28.5
New Brunswick	19.3	13.7	8.2	24.9	14.2	17.5	21.2
Quebec	19.7	18.1	15.6	14.3	15.8	15.5	14.6
Ontario	25.5	28.5	22.8	23.3	19.0	14.9	15.5
Manitoba	32.2	34.1	18.2	18.5	23.2	13.0	24.9
Saskatchewan	23.0	22.9	20.9	14.9	19.3	20.0	11.6
Alberta	76.5	74.2	65.8	65.3	64.9	74.1	62.9
British Columbia	41.4	39.2	23.2	28.4	27.3	24.6	19.2
Yukon	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	111.1
Northwest Territories	-	-	40.0	-	-	-	-
CANADA	**29.3**	**30.4**	**23.5**	**24.4**	**23.8**	**22.6**	**20.6**

Source: Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics.

Table A.3.10: Crude divorce rate (for 100,000) among youth **20-24** years, Canada and provinces, 1977 to 1983

Male

Province	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Newfoundland	101.5	103.7	98.2	89.0	115.8	139.4	114.1
Prince Edward Island	169.8	142.9	70.2	84.7	174.1	134.6	127.3
Nova Scotia	366.8	373.1	385.7	382.6	364.1	321.6	271.2
New Brunswick	149.7	233.4	188.7	209.4	228.8	229.1	214.9
Quebec	197.0	196.1	187.8	169.1	199.2	195.5	163.2
Ontario	294.6	304.3	281.2	264.0	235.3	245.0	198.4
Manitoba	282.4	327.8	253.1	270.5	222.7	270.4	276.6
Saskatchewan	293.6	252.2	258.2	290.9	360.6	236.2	235.4
Alberta	571.4	534.4	567.6	587.1	473.6	477.9	432.7
British Columbia	378.5	391.4	360.5	351.4	343.6	333.3	258.4
Yukon	750.0	250.0	230.8	-	88.5	333.3	200.0
Northwest Territories	227.3	181.8	130.4	43.5	205.3	76.9	111.1
CANADA	**293.7**	**297.9**	**283.6**	**276.3**	**270.1**	**268.4**	**227.1**

Female

Province	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Newfoundland	300.4	250.0	269.7	252.8	318.7	281.9	292.1
Prince Edward Island	442.3	296.3	314.8	245.6	297.1	396.2	272.7
Nova Scotia	764.4	767.9	810.9	823.5	728.1	648.1	587.1
New Brunswick	393.3	544.5	535.1	539.1	583.9	602.5	661.6
Quebec	463.1	477.1	483.1	432.3	525.8	498.7	458.9
Ontario	670.7	666.3	663.4	639.8	590.6	592.6	509.7
Manitoba	662.5	666.7	557.4	689.9	546.3	571.7	639.8
Saskatchewan	613.9	582.8	522.7	666.7	738.7	599.6	568.6
Alberta	1 125.0	1 108.1	1 239.0	1 234.3	1 117.0	1 099.8	1 059.6
British Columbia	916.8	923.2	921.7	908.7	837.3	811.8	679.8
Yukon	916.7	416.7	692.3	307.7	483.9	769.2	272.7
Northwest Territories	500.0	521.7	304.3	260.9	744.0	250.0	280.0
CANADA	**660.6**	**664.7**	**673.4**	**662.3**	**657.3**	**640.6**	**581.7**

Source: Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics.

Table A.3.11: Percent (%) distribution of **divorced youth 20-24** years by alleged grounds, by sex, Canada, 1969 and 1979

Grounds for Divorce	20-24 years				All Ages*	
	Male		Female			
	1969	1979	1969	1979	1969	1979
Mental cruelty only	2.0	3.8	1.7	3.4	1.2	3.1
Physical cruelty only	2.1	0.8	1.8	0.7	0.7	0.3
Marriage with another person	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Adultery	52.3	46.9	46.9	43.6	21.8	32.6
Abnormal sexual acts	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1
Non-consummation	1.2	0.6	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.2
Separation	10.3	12.2	17.7	18.2	52.5	37.9
Alcoholism/Drug addiction	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.2
Imprisonment	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.0
Separation + Adultery	1.5	0.2	2.2	0.5	3.6	1.1
Separation + Mental cruelty	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.2
Separation + Physical cruelty	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.0
Adultery + Mental cruelty	0.9	3.6	1.2	3.4	0.5	2.7
Adultery + Physical cruelty	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1
Physical & Mental cruelty	20.0	21.8	15.0	19.3	7.1	12.7
Other combinations	8.1	10.5	10.5	10.1	9.9	8.7
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* The distribution of the total number of divorces is the same for both sexes.

Source: Statistics Canada, unpublished data.

Table A.3.12: Marriages (number and percent (%) distribution) by previous marital status, age and sex, Canada, 1977-1983

Year Age and sex			Number				Distribution (%)		
			Total	Single	Widowed	Divorced	Single	Widowed	Divorced
1977	15-19	male	11,320	11,312	1	7	99.9	0.0	0.1
		female	41,635	41,556	6	72	99.8	0.0	0.2
	20-24	male	84,753	83,842	25	886	98.9	0.0	1.1
		female	85,565	82,776	172	2,616	96.7	0.2	3.1
1978	15-19	male	9,995	9,988	-	7	99.9	0.0	0.1
		female	37,805	37,717	3	85	99.8	0.0	0.2
	20-24	male	82,824	81,932	16	876	98.9	0.0	1.1
		female	85,877	83,051	156	2,670	96.7	0.2	3.1
1979	15-19	male	8,884	8,839	-	5	99.9	0.0	0.1
		female	34,877	34,821	15	41	99.8	0.1	0.1
	20-24	male	82,046	81,139	36	871	98.9	0.0	1.1
		female	87,769	84,852	153	2,764	96.7	0.2	3.1
1980	15-19	male	8,017	8,016	1	-	100.0	0.0	0.0
		female	32,393	32,324	4	65	99.8	0.0	0.2
	20-24	male	81,159	80,304	21	834	99.0	0.0	1.0
		female	89,350	86,461	122	2,767	96.8	0.1	3.1
1981	15-19	male	6,739	6,738	-	1	100.0	0.0	0.0
		female	28,380	28,318	5	57	99.8	0.0	0.2
	20-24	male	77,196	76,438	19	739	99.0	0.0	1.0
		female	88,590	85,842	128	2,620	96.9	0.1	3.0
1982	15-19	male	5,820	5,815	-	3	99.9	0.0	0.1
		female	25,089	25,026	6	53	99.8	0.0	0.2
	20-24	male	73,172	72,442	17	680	99.1	0.0	0.9
		female	87,143	84,575	108	2,438	97.1	0.1	2.8
1983	15-19	male	4,562	4,555	1	6	99.9	0.0	0.1
		female	21,263	21,220	4	39	99.8	0.0	0.2
	20-24	male	67,336	66,714	17	605	99.1	0.0	0.9
		female	83,074	80,783	103	2,188	97.3	0.1	2.6

Source: Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics.

Table A.3.13: Number of youth living in common-law unions and percentage compared to total youth population and to those living as a couple, by age and sex, Canada 1981

Age	Number		Total youth population		Youth living as a couple	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
15	20	170	0.0	0.1	22.2	42.5
16	90	1,370	0.0	0.6	50.0	60.4
17	480	4,150	0.2	1.8	61.5	59.0
18	2,200	10,370	0.9	4.4	63.2	52.4
19	5,560	16,400	2.3	7.0	56.2	42.5
20	10,330	21,090	4.3	8.9	46.6	33.3
21	14,860	22,940	6.2	9.7	37.2	26.4
22	17,760	22,820	7.6	9.8	29.6	21.2
23	19,710	22,090	8.5	9.5	23.8	17.4
24	20,430	20,720	8.9	9.0	20.0	14.6
15-19	8,340	32,450	0.5	2.9	57.9	47.7
20-24	83,090	109,640	7.1	9.4	27.1	20.8
15-24	**91,430**	**142,090**	**3.9**	**6.2**	**28.5**	**23.9**

Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census and Norland (1983).

Table A.3.14: Proportion (%) of women living in common-law union by age groups, selected countries, 1981

Countries	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-49
Canada	**2.9**	**9.4**	**7.1**	**4.7**	**3.6**	**2.5**
Quebec	3.1	12.3	9.3	5.7	4.3	3.2
France	1.2	8.2	5.1	2.1	1.0	0.8
Sweden	-	44.0	31.0	14.0	10.0	7.0
Great Britain (1979)	-	5.0	4.0	2.0	2.0	1.0

Sources: For Canada: Norland (1983)
Other countries: Duchesne (1984 b).

Table A.3.15: Percent (%) distribution of population according to opinion on "Marriage is an outdated institution", by age, 1982

Opinion	18-24	25+
Agree	15	12
Disagree	81	85
Don't know	4	3
Total	100	100

Source: Gallup, 1982.

Table A.3.16: Percent (%) distribution of youth according to opinion on "Before living together, a couple should get married", by sex, age and region, 1983

Opinion	Total	Sex		Age		Region				
		M	F	15-19	20-24	B.C.	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Maritimes
Agree strongly	16	13	19	16	16	19	21	17	8	24
Agree somewhat	12	14	10	13	11	11	17	13	7	15
Neither agree or disagree	12	11	12	10	13	11	9	11	14	12
Disagree somewhat	28	29	27	30	26	26	29	29	27	26
Disagree strongly	32	33	32	31	34	33	24	30	44	23

Source: Goldfarb, 1983.

Table A.3.17: Percent distribution (%) of population according to importance accorded to various factors which make for a successful marriage, by age, 1982

Factor	18-24 years			25 and over		
	Very important	Rather important	Not very important	Very important	Rather important	Not very important
Faithfulness	90	10	0	90	9	1
Adequate income	29	58	13	44	47	9
Same social background	13	31	56	24	39	36
Mutual respect	93	7	0	93	7	0
Shared religious beliefs	22	33	45	36	34	30
Good housing	28	50	22	37	48	15
Agreement on politics	5	22	73	9	21	70
Understanding/tolerance	85	14	1	86	13	1
Living apart from in-laws	51	26	23	54	26	20
Happy sexual relationship	80	19	1	74	24	2
Sharing household chores	55	35	10	44	40	16
Children	56	31	13	61	26	13
Tastes/interests in common	54	36	10	50	42	8

Source: Gallup, 1982.

Table A.3.18: Percent distribution (%) of population according to opinion on statement "Divorce may be justified", by age, 1982

Scale		18-24	25 +
Never	1	15	20
	2	5	3
	3	5	5
	4	8	7
	5	26	27
	6	11	12
	7	13	7
	8	7	8
	9	3	3
Always	10	6	6
Don't know		1	2
TOTAL		100	100
Mean		5.1	4.8

Source: Gallup, 1982.

Table A.3.19: Percent (%) distribution of youth according to opinion on "Parents of young children shouldn't get divorced", by sex, age and region, 1983

Opinion	Total	Sex		Age		Region				
		M	F	15-19	20-24	B.C.	Prairies	Ont.	Quebec	Maritimes
Agree strongly	23	30	16	26	20	27	20	22	28	13
Agree somewhat	19	23	16	21	18	16	21	19	21	19
Neither agree or disagree	18	18	18	17	19	16	13	17	23	19
Disagree somewhat	25	19	31	24	26	21	29	28	18	31
Disagree strongly	15	10	19	12	17	20	17	14	10	18

Source: Goldfarb, 1983.

Table A.3.20: Percentage of persons having mentioned the following as sufficient for a divorce, by age, 1982

Reasons	18-24	25 +
Partner is ill for a long time	5	5
They are financially broke	4	4
Partner consistently drinks too much	62	61
Partner is violent	87	81
Partner is consistently unfaithful	88	85
Sexual relationship is not satisfactory	27	26
Partner has ceased to love the other	84	70
Can't get along with each other's relatives	5	4
They can't have children	7	5
Their personalities clash	30	26
None of these	3	6

Source: Gallup, 1982.

Table A.4.1: Distribution of live births by age of mother, Canada, 1983

Age	Number of Births
<15	222
15	890
16	2,380
17	4,408
18	7,247
19	10,457
15-19 years	**25,382**
20	14,327
21	17,758
22	21,850
23	25,243
24	28,036
20-24 years	**107,214**
25 and over	231,695
Unknown	247
TOTAL	364,760

Source: Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics.

Table A.4.2: Percent (%) distribution of live births by age of mother and order of birth, Canada, 1983

Age	Order of Birth			
	Total	1	2	3+
15	100.0	97.4	2.6	0.0
16	100.0	95.1	4.8	0.1
17	100.0	90.7	8.8	0.5
18	100.0	83.8	14.8	1.4
19	100.0	77.2	20.2	2.6
20	100.0	69.9	25.2	4.9
21	100.0	64.9	28.4	6.7
22	100.0	60.0	31.3	8.7
23	100.0	55.2	33.6	11.2
24	100.0	51.6	35.4	13.0

Note: "Unknown" distributed pro-rata.
Source: Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics.

Table A.4.3: Age specific fertility rate (per 1,000 women) by age, Canada and provinces, 1961, 1971 and 1978 to 1983

15-19 years

Province	1961	1971	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
P.E.I.	58.2	47.4	44.2	36.3	36.4	33.5	34.0	32,9
N.S.	77.6	58.3	44.2	40.5	37.2	35.2	35.6	33,4
N.B.	70.4	56.5	42.7	38.4	38.3	35.1	35.0	32,3
Que.	31.5	19.8	17.4	17.1	16.1	15.0	15.1	14,4
Ont.	69.5	44.2	28.1	25.5	24.7	23.1	23.5	22,1
Man.	63.8	55.6	42.8	40.5	41.2	39.9	38.9	40,2
Sask.	69.7	51.1	54.3	50.8	51.7	47.9	49.6	50,4
Alta	84.5	54.0	41.9	40.4	43.6	43.6	44.2	37,0
B.C.	73.8	48.9	30.2	29.6	29.3	29.0	27.7	26,1
Yukon	148.8	128.6	60.9	39.2	44.5	66.3	45.9	46,7
NW.T.	149.9	119.3	114.2	106.8	108.1	113.0	113.5	107,7
CANADA	**58.2**	**40.1**	**29.7**	**27.9**	**27.6**	**26.4**	**26.5**	**24,9**

20-24 years

Province	1961	1971	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
P.E.I.	268.3	175.8	118.9	115.0	110.5	109.0	110.8	104,7
N.S.	254.2	157.7	109.5	105.7	102.9	103.9	101.4	98,5
N.B.	266.7	169.1	118.3	117.7	111.5	116.7	117.3	111,1
Que.	198.6	107.2	93.9	95.1	92.7	87.8	84.1	80,3
Ont.	239.8	137.2	96.4	92.7	91.4	89.1	87.9	84,4
Man.	241.9	148.5	110.3	109.7	105.8	107.7	104.5	105,8
Sask.	261.7	173.7	148.2	141.2	140.5	137.6	138.7	134,2
Alta	278.4	159.7	123.6	124.7	127.4	112.0	113.4	113,7
B.C.	253.7	141.2	104.4	103.5	100.7	99.5	100.4	97,0
Yukon	322.0	210.0	112.5	126.9	120.8	137.1	124.1	160,0
NW.T.	367.1	251.2	154.3	170.9	187.0	175.4	185.9	195,6
CANADA	**233.6**	**134.4**	**103.1**	**101.8**	**100.1**	**96.7**	**95.4**	**92,4**

Source: Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics, 1961 to 1983.

Table A.4.4: Births within and out of wedlock, by age of mother, Canada, 1961

	15-19 years		20-24 years	
	Number	%	Number	%
Within wedlock	31,850	80.8	128,859	95.0
Out of wedlock	7,548	19.2	6,841	5.0
Total	39,398	100.0	135,700	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics.

Table A.4.5: Births out of wedlock by marital status and age of mother, Canada, 1974-1983

Year	15-19 years		20-24 years	
	Single	Total Outside of marriage	Single	Total Outside of marriage
1974	9,653	9,673	5,378	5,710
1975	12,497	12,534	6,872	7,349
1976	12,869	12,915	7,371	7,915
1977	16,800	16,843	11,645	12,382
1978	16,806	16,843	12,610	13,408
1979	16,671	16,711	14,059	14,839
1980	17,188	17,242	15,770	16,577
1981	17,217	17,262	17,699	18,540
1982	17,880	17,919	20,038	20,951
1983	16 516	16 549	21 531	22 403

Notes: "Unknown" not distributed
Total out of wedlock = single, widowed and divorced mothers

Source: Unpublished Vital Statistics data.

Table A.4.6: Percentage of births to single mothers as proportion of total number of births to mothers of a given age, Canada and provinces, 1974-1983

Year and Age		Canada	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T.
1974	15-19	28.6	32.3	30.5	30.9	*	31.3	35.0	44.4	*	38.4	49.3	59.2
	20-24	5.0	7.2	6.2	8.0	*	6.0	7.4	11.3	*	8.9	20.1	24.1
1975	15-19	37.3	37.6	40.9	35.3	*	34.4	44.5	48.9	38.8	42.7	63.9	67.3
	20-24	7.1	7.0	8.1	7.2	*	6.1	11.1	13.3	7.7	9.6	24.8	31.3
1976	15-19	41.9	41.2	44.7	41.2	*	38.2	49.5	50.2	38.4	46.5	60.7	71.7
	20-24	8.6	8.1	8.8	9.7	*	6.9	12.1	13.2	8.0	10.1	18.8	30.7
1977	15-19	47.2	45.0	51.8	48.5	52.9	40.5	56.8	51.6	43.2	50.9	78.8	73.6
	20-24	10.1	10.0	10.8	9.9	12.0	7.8	13.6	12.2	8.5	11.2	26.8	31.1
1978	15-19	50.4	46.1	55.2	51.0	56.1	44.8	58.7	55.0	46.1	51.3	68.7	79.4
	20-24	11.2	9.7	11.8	10.5	13.5	8.5	15.0	13.2	10.0	12.2	26.3	32.5
1979	15-19	53.2	52.6	58.2	55.8	60.0	47.2	59.5	57.4	48.1	55.0	70.5	78.0
	20-24	12.5	12.9	12.9	12.2	15.3	9.4	16.0	14.6	10.7	13.4	32.7	36.9
1980	15-19	55.9	58.8	60.1	57.3	62.3	50.6	60.8	60.4	50.3	58.3	83.0	83.3
	20-24	14.1	12.0	14.7	15.4	17.4	10.3	17.3	16.3	11.9	15.7	30.3	40.5
1981	15-19	59.7	70.1	65.5	64.2	66.1	54.2	64.3	63.9	53.4	61.7	75.8	84.4
	20-24	16.0	15.2	17.4	16.7	19.8	11.8	19.9	17.7	14.2	17.7	31.3	42.7
1982	15-19	63.5	66.2	68.8	68.6	73.0	57.8	66.2	67.2	59.5	61.7	80.4	87.0
	20-24	18.3	15.4	19.5	19.2	23.0	13.9	21.7	18.8	16.3	19.3	43.4	45.2
1983	15-19	65.4	60.2	69.0	69.9	74.1	59.6	70.8	69.9	59.7	65.1	81.6	87.4
	20-24	20.1	16.9	20.1	21.4	26.6	15.1	22.7	20.8	17.3	21.1	39.3	53.4

* Cases where the marital status of the mother was not declared have been distributed pro-rata. "*" represents cases for which we could not carry out the calculations, due to high number of unknown.

Source: Unpublished Vital Statistics data.

Table A.4.7: Percent (%) distribution of young women ever married by mother tongue and number of children, Canada and provinces, 1981

Province, Age, Mother Tongue			Number of Children				Children/ Woman
			0	1	2	3+	
CANADA							
	15-19 years	Total	64.9	28.9	5.1	1.1	0.43
		English	62.8	30.6	5.6	1.0	0.45
		French	73.8	22.4	3.0	0.8	0.31
		Other	57.0	32.8	7.8	2.4	0.57
	20-24 years	Total	54.0	27.8	14.7	3.5	0.69
		English	52.7	27.7	15.8	3.8	0.72
		French	59.6	27.1	11.3	2.0	0.57
		Other	45.2	31.8	17.4	5.6	0.86
Newfoundland							
	15-19 years	Total	30.5	55.2	10.1	4.2	0.92
		English	29.8	55.7	10.0	4.5	0.93
		French	-	-	-	-	-
		Other	-	-	-	-	-
	20-24 years	Total	30.3	36.4	26.0	7.3	1.11
		English	30.2	36.5	26.0	7.3	1.11
		French	42.1	36.8	21.1	-	0.73
		Other	16.7	33.3	33.3	16.7	1.62
Prince Edward Island							
	15-19 years	Total	42.6	42.6	8.5	6.3	0.75
		English	40.0	44.4	8.9	6.7	0.79
		French	100.0	-	-	-	-
		Other	-	-	-	-	-
	20-24 years	Total	34.3	41.0	20.3	4.4	0.96
		English	33.7	41.5	20.6	4.2	0.96
		French	45.8	33.3	16.7	4.2	0.77
		Other	-	-	-	100.0	100.0
Nova Scotia							
	15-19 years	Total	55.0	37.1	6.8	1.1	0.55
		English	54.8	37.3	6.8	1.1	0.55
		French	85.7	14.3	-	-	0.32
		Other	33.3	50.0	-	16.7	0.92
	20-24 years	Total	44.7	32.2	18.6	4.5	0.84
		English	44.4	32.4	18.7	4.5	0.84
		French	55.4	27.3	10.8	6.5	0.73
		Other	38.5	27.7	29.2	4.6	1.03

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Table A.4.7 (cont.)

Province, Age, Mother Tongue			Number of Children				Children/ Woman
			0	1	2	3+	
New-Brunswick							
	15-19 years	Total	48.7	41.5	9.0	0.8	0.61
		English	50.0	41.8	7.2	1.0	0.58
		French	45.5	40.4	14.1	-	0.69
		Other	50.0	25.0	25.0	-	0.71
	20-24 years	Total	41.4	34.1	20.0	4.5	0.90
		English	40.5	34.4	20.7	4.4	0.90
		French	43.4	33.3	19.0	4.3	0.88
		Other	29.0	45.2	12.9	12.9	1.11
Quebec							
	15-19 years	Total	74.8	21.5	2.7	1.0	0.31
		English	73.0	19.9	5.6	1.5	0.39
		French	75.9	21.0	2.2	0.9	0.29
		Other	58.2	33.9	6.1	1.8	0.54
	20-24 years	Total	60.7	26.8	10.6	1.9	0.55
		English	62.1	23.7	11.5	2.7	0.56
		French	61.4	26.7	10.2	1.7	0.53
		Other	44.1	33.9	17.6	4.4	0.85
Ontario							
	15-19 years	Total	64.9	28.7	5.5	0.9	0.43
		English	64.9	28.9	5.4	0.8	0.42
		French	68.8	25.6	5.3	0.3	0.38
		Other	62.3	29.2	6.4	2.1	0.48
	20-24 years	Total	53.6	28.3	14.9	3.2	0.68
		English	55.1	27.4	14.3	3.2	0.66
		French	51.2	28.4	17.6	2.8	0.72
		Other	45.1	34.1	17.0	3.8	0.81
Manitoba							
	15-19 years	Total	53.2	37.6	7.7	1.5	0.57
		English	55.3	36.3	7.8	0.6	0.54
		French	50.0	50.0	-	-	0.51
		Other	45.4	41.2	9.2	4.2	0.74
	20-24 years	Total	50.7	26.8	17.1	5.4	0.79
		English	52.3	26.4	16.5	4.8	0.75
		French	48.0	26.3	20.6	5.1	0.84
		Other	43.4	28.7	19.3	8.6	0.97

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Table A.4.7 (end)

Province, Age, Mother Tongue			Number of Children				Children/ Woman
			0	1	2	3+	
Saskatchewan							
	15-19 years	Total	55.0	35.3	7.4	2.3	0.57
		English	56.8	34.7	6.6	1.9	0.54
		French	60.0	26.6	6.7	6.7	0.69
		Other	38.8	42.5	16.2	2.5	0.82
	20-24 years	Total	43.4	28.8	20.8	7.0	0.93
		English	44.2	29.0	20.7	6.1	0.90
		French	44.4	34.3	16.2	5.1	0.90
		Other	33.9	25.1	24.0	17.0	1.33
Alberta							
	15-19 years	Total	65.4	29.0	4.5	1.1	0.42
		English	66.1	28.8	4.3	0.8	0.40
		French	66.7	28.3	5.0	-	0.38
		Other	57.9	33.2	5.9	3.0	0.58
	20-24 years	Total	54.8	25.7	15.4	4.1	0.70
		English	55.5	25.5	15.2	3.8	0.68
		French	59.0	22.8	15.4	2.8	0.63
		Other	46.2	28.6	17.5	7.7	0.90
British Columbia							
	15-19 years	Total	68.8	25.8	4.8	0.6	0.37
		English	69.1	25.8	4.5	0.6	0.37
		French	64.3	25.0	10.7	-	0.43
		Other	67.2	24.6	8.2	-	0.41
	20-24 years	Total	55.7	26.0	14.6	3.7	0.67
		English	56.1	25.8	14.7	3.4	0.66
		French	62.0	22.5	11.2	4.3	0.57
		Other	52.3	28.3	14.4	5.0	0.75
Yukon							
	15-19 years	Total	61.9	19.0	14.3	4.8	0.55
		English	60.0	20.0	15.0	5.0	0.56
		French	-	-	-	-	-
		Other	100.0	-	-	-	0.40
	20-24 years	Total	68.1	17.4	12.5	2.0	0.49
		English	68.4	16.5	12.8	2.3	0.49
		French	80.0	-	20.0	-	0.41
		Other	60.0	40.0	-	-	0.56
Northwest Territories							
	15-19 years	Total					
		English	37.1	46.8	14.5	1.6	0.81
		French	48.5	39.4	12.1	-	0.64
		Other	100.0	-	-	-	0.14
			24.1	55.2	17.2	3.5	1.03
	20-24 years	Total					
		English	33.3	27.9	23.1	15.7	1.29
		French	44.8	28.2	19.1	7.9	0.96
		Other	55.6	33.3	-	11.1	0.83
			14.0	25.8	31.2	29.0	1.89

Note: Very small numbers.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census, catalogue 92-906.

Table A.4.8: Number of children ever born to women ever married by mother tongue and age, Canada, 1971 and 1981

Mother Tongue	1971			1981		
	Total (15-44)	15-19	20-24	Total (15-44)	15-19	20-24
Total	2.31	0.63	0.91	1.78	0.43	0.69
English	2.25	0.64	0.92	1.76	0.45	0.72
French	2.44	0.62	0.84	1.71	0.32	0.57
Other	-	-	-	2.03	0.57	0.86

Note: "Other" category not comparable between 1971 and 1981.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1971 and 1981 Censuses of Canada, catalogue 92-906.

Table A.4.9: Percent (%) distribution of young women ever married, 15-19 years, by number of children and ethnic origin, Canada, 1981

Ethnic origin	Number of children					Children/ woman
	0	1	2	3+	Total	
Single origin						
British	62.5	30.7	5.7	1.1	100.0	0.46
French	70.8	24.9	3.5	0.8	100.0	0.35
Chinese	66.7	25.0	6.2	2.1	100.0	0.45
Dutch (Netherlands)	67.7	30.1	2.2	-	100.0	0.35
German	68.0	27.7	3.5	0.8	100.0	0.38
Italian	71.5	20.6	5.7	2.2	100.0	0.38
Ukrainian	67.8	27.1	4.8	0.3	100.0	0.38
Native peoples	38.7	43.2	14.3	3.8	100.0	0.84
Other	65.2	28.7	5.0	1.1	100.0	0.43
Multiple origin						
British and French	61.5	31.3	5.4	1.8	100.0	0.48
British and other	70.9	24.9	3.8	0.4	100.0	0.34
French and other	66.4	29.0	3.7	0.9	100.0	0.38
Other	66.9	28.5	4.6	-	100.0	0.38
Total	64.9	28.9	5.1	1.1	100.0	0.43

Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census, catalogue 92-906.

Table A.4.10: Percent (%) distribution of young women ever married, 20-24 years, by number of children and ethnic origin, Canada, 1981

Ethnic origin	Number of children					Children/ woman
	0	1	2	3+	Total	
Single origin						
British	52.3	28.2	15.9	3.6	100.0	0.72
French	58.2	27.5	12.1	2.2	100.0	0.59
Chinese	60.4	25.2	11.7	2.7	100.0	0.57
Dutch (Netherlands)	53.5	26.9	16.7	2.9	100.0	0.70
German	55.0	26.2	15.1	3.7	100.0	0.68
Italian	52.9	32.2	12.7	2.2	100.0	0.65
Ukrainian	61.6	21.6	14.0	2.8	100.0	0.59
Native peoples	22.8	28.6	28.3	20.3	100.0	1.56
Other	50.2	30.5	15.8	3.5	100.0	0.74
Multiple origin						
British and French	52.1	28.0	15.9	4.0	100.0	0.73
British and other	57.3	25.8	13.9	3.0	100.0	0.63
French and other	58.4	24.6	13.1	3.9	100.0	0.63
Other	55.4	26.4	13.7	4.5	100.0	0.69
Total	54.0	27.8	14.7	3.5	100.0	0.69

Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census, catalogue 92-906.

Table A.4.11: Percent (%) distribution of young women ever married, by number of children, religion and age, Canada, 1981

Age and religion		Number of children					Children/ woman
		0	1	2	3+	Total	
15-19	Total	64.9	28.9	5.1	1.1	100.0	0.43
	Catholic[1]	66.9	27.3	4.7	1.1	100.0	0.41
	Orthodox[2]	63.3	31.6	5.1	-	100.0	0.46
	Protestant[3]	63.2	30.2	5.5	1.1	100.0	0.45
	Mennonite and Hutterite	57.5	36.7	2.9	2.9	100.0	0.54
	Jewish*	54.2	25.0	12.5	8.3	100.0	0.73
	Mormon	56.9	32.0	11.1	-	100.0	0.55
	No religion	65.8	28.9	4.4	0.9	100.0	0.41
	Other	61.8	30.6	6.7	0.9	100.0	0.47
20-24	Total	54.0	27.8	14.7	3.5	100.0	0.69
	Catholic[1]	55.5	28.0	13.4	3.1	100.0	0.65
	Orthodox[2]	44.5	29.8	20.5	5.2	100.0	0.88
	Protestant[3]	53.5	27.4	15.4	3.7	100.0	0.70
	Mennonite and Hutterite	49.6	27.5	17.6	5.3	100.0	0.81
	Jewish*	71.8	19.0	7.1	2.1	100.0	0.41
	Mormon	36.1	31.2	24.7	8.0	100.0	1.07
	No religion	57.4	25.6	13.9	3.1	100.0	0.64
	Other	43.7	31.3	19.6	5.4	100.0	0.88

* Small numbers

[1] Includes Polish National Catholic Church, Roman Catholic and Ukrainian Catholic.

[2] Includes Antiochian, Armenian, Greek, Romanian, Russian, Servian, Ukrainian and other Orthodox.

[3] Includes Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian and United Church.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census, catalogue 92-906.

Table A.4.12: Percent (%) distribution of young women ever married, by number of children, level of schooling and age, Canada, 1981

Age and level of schooling	Number of children					Children/ woman
	0	1	2	3+	Total	
15-19						
Total	64.9	28.9	5.1	1.1	100.0	0.43
Less than Grade 9	41.6	42.4	11.1	4.9	100.0	0.82
Grades 9-13	64.7	29.7	4.9	0.7	100.0	0.42
Some university or other non-university	78.5	18.4	2.2	0.9	100.0	0.26
Other than university certificate	83.3	12.3	2.7	0.7	100.0	0.21
University certificate or degree	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-24						
Total	54.0	27.8	14.7	3.5	100.0	0.69
Less than Grade 9	22.6	32.1	30.5	14.8	100.0	1.46
Grades 9-13	46.8	31.3	18.0	3.9	100.0	0.80
Some university or other non-university	63.0	25.1	10.1	1.8	100.0	0.51
Other than university certificate	69.6	22.2	7.0	1.2	100.0	0.40
University certificate or degree	85.2	11.7	2.7	0.4	100.0	0.18

"-": Very small numbers.
Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census, catalogue 92-906.

Table A.4.13: Percent (%) distribution of young women ever married by age group, number of children ever born, work experience, Canada, 1981

Age group and work experience	Number of children					Children/ woman
	0	1	2	3+	Total	
15-19						
Total	64.9	28.9	5.1	1.1	100.0	0.43
Worked since 1-1-80	73.4	22.6	3.4	0.6	100.0	0.32
- In current labour force	79.2	17.6	2.6	0.6	100.0	0.25
- Not in current labour force	54.3	38.8	5.9	1.0	100.0	0.54
Did not work since 1-1-80	39.0	48.2	10.5	2.3	100.0	0.78
- Worked prior 1-1-80	31.3	54.6	11.7	2.4	100.0	0.87
- Never worked	44.2	43.7	9.8	2.3	100.0	0.72
20-24						
Total	54.0	27.8	14.7	3.5	100.0	0.69
Worked since 1-1-80	63.4	25.0	9.7	1.9	100.0	0.51
- In current labour force	69.3	21.5	7.8	1.4	100.0	0.42
- Not in current labour force	31.4	43.9	20.3	4.4	100.0	0.99
Did not work since 1-1-80	15.5	39.6	34.9	10.0	100.0	1.43
- Worked prior to 1-1-80	14.1	41.7	35.3	8.9	100.0	1.41
- Never worked	19.7	33.3	33.9	13.1	100.0	1.47

Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census, catalogue 92-906.

Table A.4.14: Percent (%) distribution of young women ever married, by number of children, area of residence and age, Canada, 1981

Age and area of residence	Number of children					Children/ woman
	0	1	2	3+	Total	
15-19						
Total	64.9	28.9	5.1	1.1	100.0	0.43
Urban area						
500 000 +	68.4	26.4	4.4	0.8	100.0	0.38
100 000 - 499 999	67.7	30.1	4.7	0.5	100.0	0.41
10 000 - 99 999	64.8	29.0	5.4	0.8	100.0	0.35
1 000 - 9 999	61.5	32.5	5.6	0.6	100.0	0.46
Rural area	53.2	37.3	7.5	2.0	100.0	0.59
Rural Non-farm	53.0	37.5	7.7	1.8	100.0	0.59
Rural Farm	55.8	34.8	5.1	4.3	100.0	0.60
20-24						
Total	54.0	27.8	14.7	3.5	100.0	0.69
Urban area	57.6	26.7	12.9	2.8	100.0	0.62
500 000 +	62.8	24.6	10.5	2.1	100.0	0.52
100 000 - 499 999	56.2	27.2	13.5	3.1	100.0	0.65
10 000 - 99 999	52.8	28.8	15.1	3.3	100.0	0.73
1 000 - 9 999	46.8	31.0	18.0	4.2	100.0	0.81
Rural area	41.9	31.5	20.7	5.9	100.0	0.92
Rural Non-farm	42.0	31.6	20.6	5.8	100.0	0.92
Rural Farm	40.7	30.7	21.5	7.1	100.0	0.97

Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census, catalogue 92-906.

Table A.4.15: Number of young families by family type and number of children, Canada, 1976

Type of family	Number of children				Total
	0	1	2	3+	
Husband and Wife					
.Husband of 15-24 years	204,710	96,500	32,345	5,415	338,970
.Wife of 15-24 years	332,895	185,765	87,970	17,365	624,000
Single Parents	-	25,620	7,915	2,190	35,730
.Father of 15-24 years	-	2,130	480	315	2,925
.Mother of 15-24 years	-	23,480	7,435	1,885	32,810

Source: Statistics Canada, 1976 Census, catalogue 93-833.

Table A.4.16: Number of young single-parent families by sex, marital status of parent, and number of children, Canada, 1976

Sex and number of children	Single	Married, Spouse absent	Separated	Widowed	Divorced	Total
Female						
1 child	11,010	1,725	7,780	485	2,485	23,485
2 children	1,815	630	3,655	255	1,085	7,435
3 children and over	435	130	970	95	255	1,885
Total	13,265	2,485	12,405	830	3,825	32,810
Male						
1 child	905	625	430	50	120	2,130
2 children	165	160	100	10	45	480
3 children and over	170	75	40	15	5	315
Total	1,245	860	570	85	170	2,925

Source: Statistics Canada, 1976 Census, catalogue 93-833.

Table A.4.17: Number of young families by family type, education of parents and number of children, Canada, 1976

Type of family and number of children	Grade <9	Grade 9-10	Grade 11	Grade 12-13	Post-secondary		University	Total
					Without certificate	With certificate		
Husband and Wife								
Wife 15-24 years								
Total	49,510	120,895	82,435	174,595	46,895	62,745	86,925	62,400
0 child	14,370	41,965	37,150	102,195	28,105	42,400	66,715	332,895
1 child	18,085	44,820	29,010	50,530	12,995	14,895	15,435	185,765
2 children	12,330	27,855	14,115	19,520	5,045	4,895	4,210	87,970
3 children and over	4,725	6,250	2,155	2,360	750	555	575	17,365
Husband 15-24 years								
Total	26,590	67,865	40,185	74,065	37,180	30,535	62,545	338,970
0 child	10,935	32,660	22,625	47,150	22,910	19,815	48,610	204,710
1 child	10,110	24,070	12,900	20,395	10,315	7,705	11,005	96,500
2 children	4,365	9,435	4,095	5,805	3,445	2,630	2,570	32,345
3 children and over	1,185	1,705	570	720	510	385	350	5,415
Single Parents								
Total	5,155	12,010	5,125	6,070	2,970	1,900	2,505	35,730
1 child	3,065	8,080	3,875	4,755	2,260	1,540	2,045	25,620
2 children	1,455	3,020	1,060	1,135	575	310	355	7,915
3 children and over	640	910	185	175	145	40	105	2,190

Source: Statistics Canada, 1976 Census, catalogue 93-832 and 93-833.

Table A.4.18: Percent (%) distribution of young families by family type, education of parents and number of children, Canada, 1976

Type of family and number of children		Grade <9	Grade 9-10	Grade 11	12-13^{e} année	Postsecondary		University	Total
						Without certificate	With certificate		
Husband and wife									
Wife	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	0	29.0	34.7	45.1	58.5	59.9	67.6	76.7	53.3
	1	36.5	37.1	35.2	28.9	27.7	23.7	17.8	29.9
	2	24.9	23.0	17.1	11.2	10.8	7.8	4.8	14.1
	3+	9.6	5.2	2.6	1.4	1.6	0.9	0.7	2.7
Husband	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	0	41.1	48.1	56.3	63.7	61.6	64.9	77.7	60.4
	1	38.0	35.5	32.1	27.5	27.7	25.2	17.6	28.5
	2	16.4	13.9	10.2	7.8	9.3	8.6	4.1	9.5
	3+	4.5	2.5	1.4	1.0	1.4	1.3	0.6	1.6
Lone parent	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	1	59.4	67.3	75.7	78.4	75.8	81.5	81.6	71.7
	2	28.2	25.1	20.7	18.7	19.3	16.4	14.2	22.2
	3+	12.4	7.6	3.6	2.9	4.9	2.1	4.2	6.1

Source: Table A.4.17.

Table A.4.19: Number of young families by type of family, by labour force activity of parents and number of children, Canada, 1976

Type of family, number of children	In Labour Force			Not in labour force	Total
	Total	Employed	Un-employed		
Husband and Wife					
Wife's Labor Force Activity					
Total	56,335	314,180	42,155	267,665	624,000
0 child	254,580	228,455	26,125	78,315	332,895
1 child	72,150	60,620	11,530	113,620	185,765
2 children	25,590	21,695	3,895	62,380	87,970
3 children and over	4,025	3,405	,615	13,345	17,365
Husband's Labour Force Activity					
Total	311,670	289,545	22,125	27,300	338,970
0 child	188,820	175,805	13,015	15,890	204,710
1 child	88,680	82,235	6,440	7,820	96,500
2 children	29,495	27,320	2,180	2,850	32,345
3 children and over	4,680	4,185	495	740	5,415
Single-Parent					
Female					
Total	13,045	10,580	2,465	19,765	32,810
1 child	10,480	8,545	1,930	13,005	23,480
2 children	2,165	1,735	430	5,270	7,435
3 children and over	405	295	105	1,485	1,885
Male					
Total	2,310	2,015	295	615	2,925
1 child	1,725	1,510	215	405	2,130
2 children	365	320	50	110	480
3 children and over	210	185	30	100	315

Source: Statistics Canada, 1976 Census, catalogue 93-832 and 93-833.

Table A.4.20: Percent (%) distribution of young families by type of family, by labour force activity of parents and number of children, Canada, 1976

Type of family and number of children			In labour force			Not in labour force	Total
			Total	Employed	Unemployed		
Husband and Wife	Wife	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		0	71.5	72.7	62.0	29.3	53.3
		1	20.2	19.3	27.3	42.5	29.8
		2	7.2	6.9	9.2	23.3	14.1
		3+	1.1	1.1	1.5	4.9	2.8
	Husband	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		0	60.6	60.7	58.8	58.2	60.4
		1	28.4	28.4	29.1	28.7	28.5
		2	9.5	9.4	9.9	10.4	9.5
		3+	1.5	1.5	2.2	2.7	1.6
Lone parents	Mother	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		1	80.3	80.8	78.3	65.8	71.6
		2	16.6	16.4	17.4	26.7	22.7
		3+	3.1	2.8	4.3	7.5	5.7
	Father	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		1	75.0	74.9	72.9	65.8	72.8
		2	15.9	15.9	16.9	17.9	16.4
		3+	9.1	9.2	10.2	16.3	10.8

Source: Table A.4.19.

Table A.5.1: Number of therapeutic abortions among youth by age of woman, Canada, 1982

Age	Abortions	
15-19 years	**17.133**	
15		1,165
16		2,557
17		3,568
18		4,789
19		5,054
20-24 years	**21,608**	
20		5,012
21		4,727
22		4,265
23		4,026
24		3,578

Source: Statistics Canada,
catalogue 82-811, 1982

Table A.5.2: Number and percent (%) distribution of therapeutic abortions among young women by province, 1982

Province	All Ages		Under 20 years		20-24 years	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Newfoundland	457	0.7	161	0.9	135	0.6
Prince Edward Island	26	0.0	9	0.0	9	0.1
Nova Scotia	1,691	2.6	569	3.2	598	2.8
New Brunswick	243	0.4	84	0.5	84	0.4
Quebec	9,671	14.6	1,999	11.3	2,941	13.5
Ontario	31,290	47.2	8,669	48.8	9,965	45.8
Manitoba	1,728	2.6	544	3.1	614	2.8
Saskatchewan	1,622	2.4	566	3.2	594	2.7
Alberta	6,617	10.0	1,886	10.6	2,443	11.2
British Columbia	12,566	19.0	3,163	17.8	4,249	19.5
Yukon	124	0.2	31	0.2	44	0.2
Northwest Territories	218	0.3	76	0.4	83	0.4
CANADA	**66,254**	**100.0**	**17,757**	**100.0**	**21,760**	**100.0**

Source: Statistics Canada, catalogue 82-211, 1982.

Table A.5.3: Percentage (%) of therapeutic abortions obtained by young women as a proportion of total number of therapeutic abortions, Canada and provinces, 1982

Province	Under 20 years	20-24 years	Under 25 years	All Ages
Newfoundland	35.2	29.5	64.7	100.0
Prince Edward Island	34.6	34.6	69.2	100.0
Nova Scotia	33.6	35.4	69.0	100.0
New Brunswick	34.6	34.6	69.2	100.0
Quebec	20.7	30.4	51.1	100.0
Ontario	27.7	31.8	59.5	100.0
Manitoba	31.5	35.5	67.0	100.0
Saskatchewan	34.9	36.6	71.5	100.0
Alberta	28.5	36.9	65.4	100.0
British Columbia	25.2	33.8	59.0	100.0
Yukon	25.0	35.5	60.5	100.0
Northwest Territories	34.9	38.1	73.0	100.0
CANADA	**26.8**	**32.8**	**59.6**	**100.0**

Source: Calculated from table A.5.2.

Table A.5.4: Therapeutic abortion rates (o/oo) among young women by age, Canada and provinces, 1976 to 1982

Province	1976		1977		1978		1979		1980		1981		1982	
	15-19	20-24	15-19	20-24	15-19	20-24	15-19	20-24	15-19	20-24	15-19	20-24	15-19	20-24
Newfoundland	5.0	4.9	6.5	5.4	6.2	7.3	8.0	8.2	6.2	6.5	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.2
Prince Edward Island	4.0	3.3	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.5	3.2	1.9	2.0	0.5	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.7
Nova Scotia	11.5	10.5	11.8	11.8	12.7	12.2	13.3	12.6	14.0	13.9	13.5	14.6	14.2	15.1
New Brunswick	4.4	3.8	4.3	4.3	4.8	3.9	4.9	4.3	5.4	4.1	4.9	5.0	2.5	2.6
Quebec	4.5	7.1	4.7	7.4	5.0	7.6	5.8	8.4	6.2	8.7	6.4	8.7	6.9	9.2
Ontario	20.5	20.4	20.9	21.0	21.6	22.0	22.6	23.4	22.8	23.8	21.9	24.1	22.6	24.8
Manitoba	9.9	8.4	10.8	9.8	12.8	11.4	10.8	10.3	10.6	10.4	11.1	11.4	11.8	13.0
Saskatchewan	10.8	8.3	11.3	8.1	14.3	10.1	14.1	12.5	13.7	11.1	13.5	12.2	12.6	13.3
Alberta	20.2	17.3	21.6	19.6	24.1	21.9	24.2	22.7	23.6	23.5	20.9	19.4	18.4	18.6
British Columbia	28.8	30.1	31.4	31.3	32.2	35.7	32.3	35.2	30.2	33.4	29.5	32.7	27.8	33.5
Yukon	23.0	26.4	34.0	27.5	23.6	34.2	29.2	36.2	30.0	31.5	30.0	36.7	31.0	33.8
Northwest Territories	14.3	15.5	13.6	15.5	15.4	24.3	18.0	21.3	15.4	20.4	23.2	27.8	30.4	34.6
Canada	**14.6**	**15.1**	**15.3**	**15.9**	**16.3**	**17.2**	**17.0**	**18.1**	**16.9**	**18.2**	**16.2**	**18.0**	**16.2**	**18.5**

Source: Statistics Canada, catalogue 82-211, 1976 to 1982.

Table A.5.5: Therapeutic abortions obtained by canadian women by place where abortion was obtained, 1981

Province	Abortions performed in the province			Provincial residents who obtained an abortion else where	Total* number of abortions obtained by the residents	Departure Rate
	Total	Non-residents	Residents			(%)
Newfoundland	356	2	354	116	470	24.7
Prince Edward Island	6	-	6	21	27	77.8
Nova Scotia	1,698	22	1,676	13	1,689	0.8
New Brunswick	431	3	428	16	444	3.6
Quebec	9,055	147	8,908	134	9,042	1.5
Ontario	30,579	188	30,391	72	30,463	0.2
Manitoba	1,613	25	1,588	22	1,610	1.4
Saskatchewan	1,628	25	1,603	24	1,627	1.5
Alberta	6,725	55	6,670	87	6,757	1.3
British Columbia	12,709	137	12,572	47	12,619	0.4
Yukon	112	7	105	18	123	14.6
Northwest Territories	141	-	141	38	179	21.2

* Includes 3 cases in British Columbia who did not declare a place of residence.

Source: Statistics Canada, catalogue 82-211, 1981.

Table A.5.6: Access to therapeutic abortion in terms of hospitals with therapeutic abortion committees, Canada and provinces, 1981

Province	Number of hospitals 01/01/81	Number of Women*/Hospital (in thousands)		
		15-44	15-19	20-24
Newfoundland	5	26.8	6.2	5.2
Prince Edward Island	2	13.8	3.2	2.7
Nova Scotia	13	15.3	3.2	3.0
New Brunswick	9	18.2	3.9	3.6
Quebec	31	51.9	9.8	10.4
Ontario	105	19.7	3.8	3.8
Manitoba	7	33.3	6.8	6.7
Saskatchewan	10	21.1	4.7	4.4
Alberta	24	23.5	4.4	5.3
British Columbia	58	11.3	2.0	2.2
Yukon	1	6.4	1.0	1.2
Northwest Territories	2	5.7	1.3	1.2
CANADA	**267**	**22.0**	**4.2**	**4.4**

* Statistics Canada Estimate, in thousands.
Source: Statistics Canada, catalogue 88-211, 1981.

Table A.5.7: Percent (%) distribution of therapeutic abortions by marital status of women, by age, Canada, 1976 to 1982

Marital Status	1976		1977		1978		1979		1980		1981		1982	
	15-19	20-24	15-19	20-24	15-19	20-24	15-19	20-24	15-19	20-14	15-19	20-24	15-19	20-24
Single	94	67	95	68	95	70	96	73	96	76	96	77	96	77
Married	4	23	3	21	3	20	2	17	2	15	2	14	2	13
Separated	1	7	-	6	1	7	1	6	1	5	1	5	1	5
Divorced	-	2	1	2	-	2	-	2	-	2	-	1	-	2
Widowed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Law Spouse	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Note: "Unknowns" distributed pro-rata.

Source: Statistics Canada, catalogue 82-211, 1976 to 1982.

Table A.5.8: Percent (%) distribution of previous pregnancies by number of previous deliveries, spontaneous and induced abortions, and age of women, Canada, 1976-1982

Previous pregnancies		1976		1977		1978		1979		1980		1981		1982	
		15-19	20-24	15-19	20-24	15-19	20-24	15-19	20-24	15-19	20-24	15-19	20-24	15-19	20-24
Previous deliveries	0	92.0	68.2	91.9	68.9	91.8	69.5	91.9	71.0	92.4	71.4	92.0	71.9	91.5	71.9
	1	6.8	19.3	7.0	19.8	7.1	19.1	7.1	18.7	6.7	18.4	7.1	18.1	7.5	18.9
	2	1.1	10.3	1.0	9.1	1.0	9.0	0.9	8.4	0.9	8.4	0.9	8.2	0.9	7.6
	3+	0.1	2.2	0.1	2.2	0.1	2.4	0.1	1.9	0.0	1.8	0.0	1.8	0.1	1.6
Previous spontaneous abortions	0	98.7	95.0	98.8	95.3	98.8	95.2	98.7	95.4	98.8	95.5	98.7	95.5	98.6	95.9
	1	1.2	4.1	1.1	3.9	1.1	4.0	1.2	4.0	1.1	4.0	1.2	3.8	1.3	3.5
	2	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.4
	3+	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2
Previous therapeutic abortions	0	94.8	87.6	94.0	86.2	93.7	84.7	93.0	83.7	92.4	82.9	92.3	81.7	91.8	81.0
	1	5.0	11.4	5.8	12.4	6.0	13.5	6.7	14.3	7.2	14.9	7.3	15.9	7.7	16.5
	2	0.2	0.9	0.2	1.2	0.3	1.6	0.3	1.8	0.4	1.9	0.4	2.1	0.5	2.2
	3+	-	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3

Nota: "Unknown" distributed pro-rata.

Source: Statistics Canada, catalogue 82-211, 1976-1982.

Table A.5.9: Percent (%) distribution of abortions by marital status, number of previous deliveries, and age, Canada, 1982

Marital Status and Previous Deliveries		15-19	20-24
Single	0	93.5	82.6
	1	5.9	13.7
	2	0.6	3.0
	3+	0.0	0.7
Married	0	46.6	36.0
	1	44.3	33.7
	2	8.6	25.7
	3+	0.5	4.6
Other	0	49.3	35.5
	1	40.6	40.3
	2	9.5	19.9
	3+	0.6	4.3

Source: Statistics Canada, catalogue 82-211. 1982.

Table A.5.10: Opinion of population concerning the Abortion Act (1969) and on accessibility of abortion services, by age and sex, 1976

Opinion on	Female			Male		
	15-19	20-29	15+	15-19	20-29	15+
The present legal status of provoqued abortion:						
Legal	31.4	41.9	35.9	32.3	39.1	37.5
Illegal	48.2	46.3	47.3	46.5	50.6	50.3
Don't know	20.4	11.8	16.8	21.2	10.3	12.2
The Abortion Act:						
Too liberal	11.3	11.9	16.2	7.8	11.6	12.8
About right	29.0	22.9	24.9	19.6	19.4	23.0
Too restrictive	19.7	38.4	26.5	31.4	44.0	36.6
Don't know	40.0	26.8	32.4	41.2	25.0	27.6
Accessibility of services:						
Too accessible	10.5	10.0	11.2	4.4	7.4	7.7
Adequately accessible	15.6	19.8	17.7	14.6	17.5	17.3
Too inaccessible	16.2	21.7	16.1	14.3	22.1	18.4
No opinion	57.7	48.5	55.0	66.7	53.0	56.

Source: Badgley et al., pp.503, 504, 505.

Table A.5.11: Percentage (%) of population approving induced abortion according to various reasons, by age group and sex, 1976

Reasons	Female			Male		
	15-19	20-29	15+	15-19	20-29	15+
Pregnancy harmful to physical health of mother	67.6	77.4	71.0	60.5	70.5	66.8
Rape, incest	64.0	66.3	61.7	58.1	63.1	58.7
Pregnancy harmful to mental health of mother	56.3	63.6	58.9	49.8	60.8	56.6
Malformation of foetus	45.8	58.8	53.2	40.2	51.4	49.4
On demand if pregnancy less than 12 weeks	23.5	31.1	23.7	27.2	32.0	27.3
Impossibility of providing for child	19.6	28.0	21.8	15.6	27.7	21.7
Child is illegitimate	18.5	17.4	17.6	18.9	16.7	19.3
No matter when on demand	16.1	20.5	15.8	31.2	26.1	23.2
Never	14.0	7.2	11.4	9.6	6.8	9.8

Source: Badgley et al., pp.508-509 et 472.

Table A.5.12: Percentage (%) of population approving of abortion according to various circumstances, by age, 1982

Circumstance	**18-24**	25+
When mother's health is at risk	90	92
Likely that child would be born physically handicapped	58	66
Where the woman is not married	24	23
Where a married couple does not want to have any more children	25	24

Source: Gallup, 1982.

Table A.5.13: Percent (%) distribution of youth according to opinion on statement: "Abortion on demand is something society should not refuse to women", by age, sex and region, 1983

Opinion	Total	Age		Sex		Region				
		15-19	20-24	M	F	B.C.	Prairies	Ont.	Que.	Maritimes
Agree strongly	25	24	25	22	27	30	20	28	23	21
Agree somewhat	28	26	30	29	28	32	32	27	27	26
Neither agree nor disagree	15	14	15	18	12	14	11	11	23	15
Disagree somewhat	15	16	14	14	15	9	16	16	19	22
Disagree strongly	18	19	16	17	18	15	21	18	16	17

Source: Goldfarb, 1983.

A TECHNICAL NOTE

Data on households include only part of the population. Among young people, 54,030 of them are excluded.

It is sometimes more interesting and revealing to compare the number of people living in private households to the total canadian population, that is, to calculate rates for the general population, and not only for the population living in private households. This can explain some differences in the results.

Many times in Chapter 2, such rates are calculated. The reader should use those results with caution.

Furthermore, data on common-law union in Chapter 3, take into account not only the population living in private households but also include people living overseas and in hutterites settlements.

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